State of Wisconsin
Land and Water Conservation Board

PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708 - 8911
608 - 224 - 4650

Land and Water Conservation Board
Agenda

August 3, 2021

The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on **August 3, 2021.** The board will hold its official business meeting at **9:00 am** via Microsoft Teams. To attend the meeting, join by telephone at 608-571-2209 with Conference ID 235 533 402 # 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
   e. Approval of agenda
   f. Approval of June 1, 2021 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 FSA Representation on County LCC's -
   Warren Hanson, Administrative Officer, USDA Farm Service Agency

4 Recommendation for approval of 5 year LWRM Plan review for Brown County -
   Mike Mushinski, County Conservationist, Brown County LWCD; Norbert Dantinne Jr., Land Conservation Committee Chair

5 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Pierce County -
   Rodney Webb, Land Conservation Director, Pierce County LCD; Jerry Kosin, LCC Chair

6 **5 Minute Break**

7 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Waupaca County -
   Brian Haase, County Conservationist, Waupaca County LWCD; Dan McFarlane, GIS/Conservation Technician; DuWayne Federwitz, LWCC Chair

8 **Lunch**

9 Results of the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey
Matt Komiskey, USGS and David Hart, UW-Extension

10 Presentation of 2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan -
Jenni Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP and Joanna Griffin, DNR

11 DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2022 **- Joanna Griffin, DNR**

12 DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2022 - **Joanna Griffin, DNR**

13 **5 Minute Break**

14 Revisions to the LWRM Plan 5 Year Review Form & Plan Revision Guidance Document
Lisa Trumble, DATCP

15 Update on Post-pandemic Planning for In-person and Virtual LWCB Meetings
Katy Smith, DATCP

16 Discussion on Recent Predictive Well Water Contamination Study
Zach Zopp, DATCP

17 Agency reports
a. FSA
b. NRCS
c. UW-CALS
d. UW-Extension
e. WI Land + Water
f. DOA
g. DATCP
h. DNR
i. Member Updates

18 Planning for October 2021 LWCB Meeting -
Mark Cupp, LWCB

19 Adjourn

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

June 1, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of April 6, 2021 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Mark Cupp, Eric Birschbach, Bobbie Webster, Monte Osterman, Andrew Buttles, Ron Grasshoff, Andrew Potts, Brian Weigel, Lacey Cochart and Sara Walling. A quorum was present.

Advisors present: Ian Krauss (FSA), Angela Biggs (NRCS) and Matt Kruger (WI Land+Water)

Department staff present: Lisa Trumble, Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, Kim Carlson, Susan Mockert, Coreen Fallat, Katy Smith, Rosalie Powell, Alec Martin, Bart Chapman and Zach Zopp (DATCP).

Zopp confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Weigel moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

Grasshoff made a motion to approve the April 6, 2021 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried unanimously.

> Grasshoff requested grammar and spelling corrections to Agenda Item #3, *Administrative Rule Revision Process and Upcoming ATCP 50 Revision* and Agenda Item #16, *Planning for June 2021 LWCB Meeting*. Webster requested that Agenda Item *#4, Correspondence Regarding Marathon County LWRM Plan Approval,* paragraph two, be revised such that the word "legality" be changed to "legal basis of the Marathon County resident's concern".

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 The Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for Numbering Watersheds

Brian Weigel, DNR and Angela Biggs, NRCS, presented to the Board an overview of the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for numbering watersheds. The presentation provided during the meeting is available online at the LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov under **2021 Meetings** for June 1.

The Board discussed the following: the intent of HUC codes; using the USGS SPARROW model to determine nutrient loading across a watershed, nutrient loading amounts and targeting nutrient reduction efforts; how SPARROW model nutrient predictions are affected by cover cropping.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Green County

Todd Jenson, County Conservationist, Tonya Gratz, Soil Conservationist and Austin Loeffelholz, Conservation Technician, Green County LWCD and Kristi Leonard, Land and Water Conservation Committee Chair made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the county's LWRM plan.

DATCP's review of the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Green County Land and Water Conservation Department 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).

The Board and county representatives discussed the following: changing dynamics of dairy herds in Green County; reasoning for declining farmland preservation program participation; possibility of forming an Agricultural Enterprise Area; rationale for not participating in the 9 key element plan; successful outreach activities.

Osterman moved to recommend approval of Green County's plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously

Item #5 Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update for Forest County

Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information / GIS Director, Forest County LWCD and Larry Sommer, LCC member, made a formal presentation updating the Board on the County's LWRM plan.

Forest County Land and Water Conservation Department provided the Board with recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov).

The Board and county representatives discussed the following: the presence and types of aquatic invasive species; implementation of the county's climate change field guide; changing dynamics of tree species within the county; National Association of Conservation Districts (NADC) technical grant award; adequacy of staffing levels within the Land and Water Conservation Department; establishing a future goal to obtain SEG funding from DATCP; how the county is addressing and funding high lake levels within Lake Lucerne

Webster moved to recommend that Forest County is meeting its 2017 obligation to demonstrate implementation of its LWRM plan by pursuing reasonable conservation strategies and practices, including the promotion of accepted conservation practices and effective use of cost-sharing, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #6 LWCB Annual Agenda Discussion on 2022 Grant Applications Agenda Item

Mark Cupp, LWCB and Zach Zopp, DATCP presented to the Board the history of the *Grant Applications* agenda item, scheduled on the LWCB Annual Agenda every June. The Board was advised of their duties under Wis. Stat. § 92.04(2) to review annual grant allocation plans and review joint allocation plans. The Board was advised their duties to Wis. Stat. § 92.04(2) are met with the following annually reoccurring August LWCB Annual Agenda items:

1) Presentation of [Yearly] Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan
2) DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY [Yearly]
3) DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY [Yearly]

Zopp discussed the history of the annual agenda item in June starting in 2017. The board acknowledged that the agenda item may have been unique to circumstances in 2017 and that "Grant Applications" will be removed from the annual agenda for the June meeting beginning with the 2022 annual agenda.

Item #7 An Overview of the Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Bart Chapman, DATCP, Standards Oversight Council Chair, presented to the Board a video introducing the Standards Oversight Council (SOC), its' roles and responsibilities. A short question and answer session followed the video. The video presentation is available online at LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov under **2021 Meetings** for June 1.

The Board discussed the following: how standards are selected and prioritized; the process to review Federal and State standards; the bi-annual survey conducted by SOC; the uniqueness of Wisconsin's state oversight council for standards; opportunities for political and public involvement within the SOC process and the transparency of the SOC process.

Item #8 LWCB Website Overview and Revision Discussion

Zach Zopp, DATCP gave the Board a brief overview of the LWCB website. An open discussion followed regarding potential ways to revise the LWCB website.

The Board and agency representatives discussed the following: adding a link on the LWCB website to the existing DATCP Land Acknowledgment Statement.

Item #9 The Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report (written report only)

Coreen Fallat, DATCP notified the LWCB Board the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report will be published in early June. The memo addressing the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report is available online at the LWCB website within the June 1, 2021 meeting packet. A copy of the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report is now available online on LWCB's website under Wisconsin Report on Soil and Water Conservation.

Item #10 Agency Reports

FSA- Ian Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 meeting packet.

NRCS – Angela Biggs submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 meeting packet.

UW CALs & UW Ext- Dr. Arriaga submitted a written report indicating that UW and UW-Extension is preparing to resume in-person activities.

WI Land + Water- Matt Kruger reported: the County Conservation meeting will be held virtually on July 15th and 16th; the December meeting is projected to be in-person; Vernon County will be hosting

Conservation Observance Day in August; the WI Land + Water Board is looking at what can be done to support equity and inclusion within the agency.

DOA – Andrew Potts reported: the Governor's budget is still under deliberation by the legislature; County Conservation staffing dollars for climate change works has been removed from the budget; the PFAS budget was removed; the hydrologic general restoration permit has been removed and is now going through legislature on separate track; the DATCP and DNR Environmental Improvement Fund will be taken up on 6/2/21.

DATCP – Sara Walling submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 meeting packet. In addition to the written report, Sara reported: the Gypsy Moth spray program is active for the next 3 weeks on the Western border of gypsy moth zone; Eau Claire and Richland Counties recently added to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine zone; the hemp program is initiating a new emergency rule and has noticed a significant decrease in participation in 2021.

DNR – Brian Weigel submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 meeting packet.

Member Reports – Mark Cupp reported that he met with Lisa Trumble, Katy Smith, and Zach Zopp (DATCP) to discuss the LWCB's transition back to in person meetings.

Item #11 Planning for August 2021 LWCB meeting

In addition to the items identified in the proposed 2021 annual agenda, the Board should expect the following at the August meeting:

- Two LWRM plan revisions (Pierce and Waupaca Counties)
- One LWRM plan five year review (Brown County)
- Post-pandemic planning for in person and virtual LWCB meeting attendance

Item #12 Adjourn

Grasshoff moved to adjourn, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Webster, Secretary Date

Recorder: ZZ, DATCP

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Land and Water Conservation Board

APPEARANCE CARD*

Meeting Date: 8/3/2021 Meeting Location:

Name: Cynthia Leitner Email: cjetzer@ldsinc.biz

Representing (if other than yourself): Wisconsin Dairy Alliance

Mailing Address: 18814 Twin Bay Lane

City: Kiel State: Wi Zip: 53042

Agenda Item that my comments pertain to (if applicable):
#16 Discussion on Recent Predictive Well Water Contamination Study

Comments:

Please see attached document

☐ I will be present to speak at the meeting.

x☐ I will not be present to speak at the meeting.

* *The information requested on this form is subject to state public records law.*

WISCONSIN DAIRY ALLIANCE

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Re: Quantitative Microbial Risk Study

In the last several years, Agriculture has made tremendous inroads into advanced farm practices in conservation, erosion control, and nutrient management through precision technology, scientific research, and a desire for continual improvement. Unfortunately, none of the efforts made by Agriculture in the past 4-5 years is recognized in this study. By utilizing old data from a previous study, the researchers have done a disservice to the Ag community and are misguided to think a study done with old data is relevant to today's events.

The researchers used QMRA, a mathematical probability equation versus and epidemiological study. The study itself states in the Strength and Limitations section "the current study's limitations are largely related to its basis in predictive mathematical modeling (ie., QMRA)." The foundation of the study.

We cannot make policy decisions based on mathematical predictions and models using old or even questionable data.

The study also makes a broad-based assumption under the Strengths and Limitations section that "a) all private well users in Kewaunee County drink their tap water untreated". This is verified in the methods used, stating the samples were "collected by Dead End ultra-filtration……..all samples were taken from flame sterilized taps prior to water softening or any other treatment systems." This would mean, all the wells that were contaminated would fail a potable water standard, therefore the wells are all being treated, or they would have been reported.

On the "strength" of their data, these researchers recommend we create policy that reduces "the impact of cattle manure" as the "greatest overall potential for reducing risk". A risk of that factually causes approximately 6 acute gastrointestinal cases per year and a further reduction of only .6 of those illnesses caused by cryptosporidium. A far cry from the studies predicted 301 AGI cases per year.[1]

[1] Health Report from Kewaunee County:

- Each year Kewaunee County has an average of 185 reportable communicable diseases
  - An average of 120 cases are confirmed.
  - Over the past 6 years approximately 30% (36 cases) of the confirmed diseases are of acute gastrointestinal nature.
  - Less than 10% of the gastrointestinal illnesses are caused by cryptosporidium and salmonellosis (3.6 cases)

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Imagine if we changed or created policy to address something that affects .6 of the people in Kewaunee County every time that occurred.

We would all be better served utilizing a study with controls that allow them to make critical decisions from actual data such as;

- Were all the wells in the study potable.
    - If not, was the homeowner informed.
    - Was the County notified.
    - Have the wells been retested.
    - What is the homeowner doing to rectify the situation?
    - Has it been determined how the wells are getting contaminated?
- The county should not only identify contaminated wells, but they should also require the wells be brought up to potable standards through follow up testing.
- If a well is contaminated the county should immediately follow up with an inspection of the septic system.
- The study should utilize control wells as a baseline. Identify where were those wells located? Do their standards match the actual data?
- The testing in the study should be done by a third party with an accredited lab.
- What were the well depths – not just above or below – specific depth numbers for the wells used in the study.
- How many of the wells are up to current codes and locations for private installations.
- Verify the Septic or sanitary system on the property is up to code and the proper distance from the well.
- Is the well being tested every year, verify with test reports.

Data is important. How you obtain the data is critical for making decisions based on the study results.

Cindy Leitner
President
Wisconsin Dairy Alliance

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Production and Conservation

Farm Service Agency

Wisconsin State Office
8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53717
Ph: 608-662-4422
Fax: 855-758-0755

July 22, 2021

To: Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board

From: Tyler Radke, Acting State Executive Director
by: Warren Hanson, Administrative Officer/Acting for Tyler Radke

Subject: Farm Service Agency County Committee Member Participation in LCC/Equivalent Boards

Issue:

United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA) County Committee (COC) member participation in local Land Conservation Committee (LCC)/equivalent boards is creating conflict of interest (COI) and COI appearance problems for the USDA/FSA.

The Wisconsin USDA Farm Service Agency values the contributions and partnerships of the LCCs to Wisconsin agriculture and does not wish to impede their work, however, we have a responsibility to ensure any FSA employee participation in the LCCs/equivalent does not interfere with USDA program delivery. In several circumstances the perception that FSA COC members sitting on LCCs/equivalent as FSA employees, not as individuals/citizens, has created confusion, questions, and public calls that have interfered in our work.

We feel this on-going issue is the result a misunderstanding that could be resolved with clarifying communication to the LCC/equivalent boards and their partner organizations. We have found that many LCC/equivalent boards and their non-profit partners refer to the FSA COC participants by the FSA role or title. This creates public perception problems as well as some FSA participants and/or LCC members/leadership to come to believe they are there representing the United States Department of Agriculture, which they are not.

Background:

1. FSA COC member appointment to local LCC is a requirement of local LCCs according to WI Statute 92, especially 92.06(b)2;

   > The county board shall appoint to the land conservation committee a person who is the chairperson of the county farm service agency committee created under 16 USC 590h (b) or other county farm service agency committee member designated by the chairperson of the county farm service agency committee.
   >
   > Full language at; https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/92

2. Wisconsin Land and Water Directory (currently at; https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/members) includes a listing of all LCC/equivalent members. Many (most) of the FSA COC appointees in the public directory include a reference to the FSA title.

   Note: Previously a full listing of LCC members was available at: https://wisconsinlandwater.org/files/pdf/WILandWaterDirectory.pdf

3. During public LCC/equivalent meetings, many of which are recorded and broadcast, FSA COC appointees are reported to have been either referred to or wear name tags/sit behind name plates identifying themselves by their FSA role.

Agency Position:

The Wisconsin Statute cannot be enforced on USDA employees, including COC members. Participation on LCC/equivalent boards by FSA COC members is not sponsored or compensated by the USDA FSA. FSA COC member participation in their local LCC/equivalent board is voluntary and must be done as a citizen/producer. USDA employee involvement in outside activities, like participation on their local LCC board, cannot create COI or appearance of COI issues for the USDA, doing so could lead to disciplinary action against the FSA employee/COC member.

Summary:

The Wisconsin FSA values the work of the LCCs and this Board. The Wisconsin FSA is not interested in addressing COI/appearance issues as a disciplinary matter or otherwise see decline in the participation of our FSA COC members in local LCC/equivalent when there appears to be widespread misunderstanding of the issue.

FSA believes the heart of this issue is a misunderstanding of the FSA COC appointments under Wisconsin Statute 92 that has been occurring over a long period of time. FSA believe this issue could be easily resolved for all parties by communicating some clarifications to the LCCs/equivalent and seeking some consistency in the partner/LCC public facing directories and websites regarding FSA COC appointees to the LCC/equivalent boards.

In addition, FSA is considering issuing its own internal clarification and instruction to our employees/COC membership and feels agreeance on the issue with this Board would be most effective in a solid resolution going forward. This way both FSA employees and the local LCC/equivalent would get a similar communication on this issue in a similar timeframe. FSA and this Board could coordinate on the timing of any communication if the Board is agreeable on the problem/resolution.

In closing, the outcome we are seeking is that FSA COC appointees on LCCs/equivalent are no longer referred to by their FSA title, role, or position while participating in LCC/equivalent tasks, meetings, broadcasts, or publications. FSA COC appointees to the LCC/equivalent are there voluntarily, as private citizens, currently active in local agriculture (that also happen to have a good understanding of current USDA programs).

Contact Warren Hanson, Administrative Officer with any question. 608-662-4422 x130 or email warren.hanson2@usda.gov

cc: Tyler Radke, Acting State Executive Director

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: **July 23, 2021**

TO: **Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors**

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

SUBJECT: **Five Year Review of the *Brown 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 guidance and 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 the LWCB guidance, DATCP will automatically modify its order to terminate approval of the county's plan effective December of this year.

Summary: The Brown County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2026 contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2021. In advance of the five-year review, Brown County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's June 2017 guidance and criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future plan implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

The county has prepared either a PowerPoint presentation or a handout to accompany its 5-8minute snapshot regarding county resources and management issues.

Materials Provided:
- Completed Five Year Review Form
- Overall Accomplishments 2016-2020
- 2020 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2021 Annual Workplan

Presenter: Mike Mushinski, County Conservationist, Brown County LWCD
Norbert Dantinne Jr., Land Conservation Committee Chair

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

County: BROWN

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.

   The Upper East River along with Plum and Kankapot Creek, both GLRI funded projects, have been implemented by the Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department along with Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, have been identified in numerous plans. The Lower Fox TMDL along with the Lower Fox TMDL Ag Implementation Committee have noted that both sub-watersheds are priorities for implementation. The Brown County LWRM plan also lists these sub-watersheds as priorities for implementation in the county. Both sub-watersheds have 9-Key Element Plans that describe needed reductions and associated costs but have received only a small amount of financial resources needed to address the required phosphorus and sediment reductions. Planning for implementation of both projects occurred through the Ag Implementation Committee with considerable support from the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, WDNR, Outagamie and Calumet Counties. We were successful in both instances of extending each project an additional year which allowed for the installation of practices that were impossible due to two years of record rainfall.

   The Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network, which is supported by Brown County, NRCS and UWEX, is also listed in numerous work plans. It is a main component of the Brown County LWRM Plan, UWEX Natural Resources Educators plan, NRCS Workplan Initiative and is referenced in numerous 9-key element plans such as the Upper and Lower East River along with the Lower Fox Mainstem. Planning and adjustments throughout the past six years of the Demonstration Farms Network have been numerous and very positive for the initiative. The original 4 farms grew to 8 as success and interest grew throughout the Lower Fox. Quickly the Lower Fox Demonstration Farms project management team realized that an outreach component was missing from the initiative. The successes the farms were achieving needed to be relayed to other farms and the general public. A UWEX Natural Resources Educator, supported by Brown County, NRCS, NEW Water and UWEX, was positioned in the Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department to work closely with the Demonstration Farms and local conservation staff. This position has been critical in the development and delivery of various social media outlets, impact and usage evaluations, mentorship program development, engagement of non-operating landowners, assisting NEW Water with adaptive management, conservation sign postings and Clean Water Pledge efforts. As the

Lower Fox Demonstration Farm has evolved over the past 6 years, staffing and resource needs have changed. We entered into the implementation phase of the Demonstration Farms Network where 7 of the original farms in Network are participating while reaching out to 10 additional producers to assist in implementing soil health practices such as cover crop and no-till plantings along with a mentorship program starting in 2021.

The Northern Pike restoration initiative entails restoring spawning wetlands along with the removal of impediments to spring pike migration is identified in both Brown and Oconto Counties LWRM Plan "to protect and restore wetlands for spawning fish". Wetland restoration, habitat restoration and fishery resource enhancement are included in the 2016 Fox River/Green Bay Update to the Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Lower Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) by the Fox River Natural Resource Trustees. Each spring the Brown County LWCD fyke nets adult pike and traps young of the year pike in tributaries throughout the county to gauge and locate potential areas in need of restoration. The results of those netting activities have directed our focus not only on the West Shore but into the Fox River tributaries such as the East River. We have planned and targeted those areas with financial support for wetland construction from NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS and the NRDA Trustee Council.

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.

   Challenges in the dairy industry, COVID, and two previous record years of rainfall have impacted our local farms. Production site conservation practices have decreased because of this along with the movement to fewer and larger farms. The Land and Water Conservation Department has changed the method of Animal Waste Inspections to focus on sites that may have had challenges meeting the county ordinance and State Performance Standards. Farm sites that are compliant with both county and start rules are inspected biannually, those that for any reason are deemed not in compliance are inspected annually. An estimated 23 farm sites will be inspected annually. While installing fewer farmstead conservation practices, we have a good understanding of the conditions on farms in Brown County that are over 500 animal units. The department evaluated and permitted two large scale digesters in 2020. One of the sites is actively using manure to produce gas while the other is estimated to begin construction in June 2021. Review and permitting of these facilities require extra time and attention, both from county staff along with DATCP engineers.

   We have experienced a slight decrease in cropland structural conservation practices in Brown County. BCLWCD has applied for a TRM grant for the East River the past two years and have ramped up efforts to complete conservation plans and encourage participation in EQIP.

   To evaluate the impact of the Demonstration Farms Network (along with other conservation programs) Brown County is using NDTI (Normalized Difference Tillage Index) derived from satellite data to look at trends in tillage intensity and cover crops/crop residue cover. In the winter/spring of 2021, we field verified 2943 fields (81,651 acres) in Brown County. Based off the fall 2020 NDTI and the field survey, we estimate there to be 21,396 acres of cover crop in Brown County in addition to wheat and

alfalfa acres. Before the demonstration farms network (2014) there was little to no cover crops above wheat planted for grain and alfalfa. The implementation of regenerative agriculture is key in achieving the water quality goals set forth by the Lower Fox River TMDL.

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?

   The Brown County Priority Farm Implementation Farm strategy, per our LWRM plan, prioritizes Working Lands Initiative, TMDL Implementation, Demonstration Farms Network and the Brown County Animal Waste Management Ordinance.

   In 2020, due to COVID and knowing we would need to make more landowners contacts and complete additional Working Lands Initiative conservation planning activities, the department increased planning activities from our annual goal of 10,000 acres. A collector app for ArcGIS was installed on all phones and iPads and is used to identify resource concerns along with the development of landowner conservation plans. Additionally, two LTE-Interns were hired to assist in gathering field data for conservation planning activities. Through this effort we successfully walked and evaluated 27,545 acres of cropland in Brown County for the Working Lands Initiative and NR 151 Performance Standards in 2020. An NRCS contribution agreement that partially funds Brown County staff provides technical assistance to landowners and guidance for BMP funding. Brown County currently has three engineering technical staff that provide assistance to landowners needing to complete designed BMP's.

   TMDL Implementation is driven by our participation on the TMDL Implementation committee sponsored by Keith Marquardt, WDNR. 9 Key Element Plans for priority sub-watersheds have been developed in the Lower Fox River Watershed. Approved plans, developed by S Outagamie County Land Conservation Department exist for the Upper and Lower East River, Bower Creek, Apple Creek, Plum & Kankapot, Dutchman and Ashwaubenon Creek along with the main stem of the Fox River. Additionally, Baird Creek along with Wequiock Creek are in the development phase. Very limited resources are available for implementation of these 9 Key Element Plan areas. The BCLWCD has received partial funding to implement conservation practices in Plum Creek and the Upper East River sub-watersheds.

   The Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network, which is supported by Brown County and NRCS, used satellite data and NDTI (normalized difference tillage index) to evaluate where in Brown County additional water quality improvements efforts were needed. The northeast areas of Brown County had noticeably more fields that had fewer covers and higher tillage intensity. The BCLWCD was able to secure financial resources through Brown County to initiate Demonstration Farms activities (soil heath practices) in that area of the county. A local producer was willing to become part of the Demonstration Farms Network in 2018 and since has devoted large acreage to planting covers, no- till and strip tillage. Additionally, seven producers in the northeast area of Brown County are now working towards soil health practices on their respective farms such as planting covers, no-till and strip tillage. A strip tillage unit was brought into Brown County by a local custom operator with the support of the Demonstration Farms Network. The

custom operator believes in improving soil health, improved farm economics and reducing field runoff. His business model focus is on regenerative agriculture which was initiated by a request from one of the original Demo Farm participants to plant no-till corn.

The Brown County Animal Waste Ordinance was revised in 2019 to include updated practice standards, definitions, and now includes all agricultural performance standards. This allows for implementation and, if needed, enforcement of all adopted state performance standards and prohibitions.

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.

Brown County annual workplan along with the annual accomplishment reports have shown numerous adjustments and plan activity modifications from 2016-2020. In 2017, Brown County rejoined DATCP in administering CREP in the county. Since then 19 CREP agreements have been completed. In 2016, Brown County, with financial support from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, initiated a Request for Proposals to evaluate the feasibility and explore the concept of a community manure digester in Brown County. In 2017 a final draft of the Brown County Community Digester Feasibility Study was received which concluded that a manure digester constructed in southern Brown County, which could receive manure from 22,882 animal units located on 9 farms, was feasible. Additionally, the biogas would need upgrading to pipeline quality and injected into the Guardian transmission pipeline. BC Organics has continued the design and permitting of the project, with support of a $15,000,000 PSC grant and anticipates a late spring 2021 construction start. The facility plans to accept manure from 13 farms which amounts to approximately 30,000 animal units and roughly 1,000,000 gallons of animal waste will be processed daily. BCLWCD, along with support from DATCP engineers Drew Zelle and Matt Woodrow, have evaluated and permitted the facility through Brown County's Animal Waste Ordinance.

In 2015-2016 BCLWCD, along with Calumet County, Outagamie County, Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance and WDNR, started implementation of the GLRI funded Plum and Kankapot Creeks Watershed project. BCLWCD hired an agronomist to implement cover crops, no-till and riparian buffers in the watershed with coordination between all groups. The GLRI funded agronomist position ended in 2019. The Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network was beginning to enter the implementation phase, and through an NRCS contribution agreement we were able to retain the agronomist position. That provided us an experienced staff that was able to contact producers and assist with the implementation of soil health practices on 10 additional farms while also applying for and receiving cover crop and residue management grants.

The BCLWCD coordinated with NEW Water to implement the Silver Creek Adaptive Management Pilot project until 2017. Conservation planning activities and coordination among landowners, private and public entities proved very successful. NEW Water since has moved into full scale adaptive management in Ashwaubenon and Dutchman Creek. BCLWCD has been involved in inventories, coordination activities, outreach, along with landowner contacts and BMP evaluations.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

a. The most current annual work plan, prepared in the current format from DATCP, and addresses all required items such as needed funding and staff hours.

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 an 8-10 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's review supplements, but does not replace compliance with the DATCP checklist for LWRM plan approval. This encourages and supports honest presentations from the county. The county is strongly encouraged to have the LCC chair or committee member be a part of the presentation to the Board to contribute policy and other insights to the discussion. 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: June 22nd, 2021

Signature of Authorized Representative: Michael L Mushinski **Date:** _6/23/2021_____
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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

5 year Work Plan Goal and Objective description	**2016-2020 Annual Goals**	Accomplishments				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Priority 1 – Working Lands Initiative (WLI) The Working Lands Initiative is a statewide effort that protects and preserves agricultural lands, by ensuring that they remain in agricultural use. The Land and Water Conservation Department offers technical assistance to landowners that participate in this program.						
1. Assist landowners in complying with NR151 (relates to agricultural run-off pollution) and ATCP50 (relates to soil and water resource management) on their agricultural property	10,000 acres	6,815	7,432	7,100	10,335	27,545
2. Develop (review) and implement schedules of compliance to meet state conservation standards	55	52	73	50	30	151
3. Installation of sediment and phosphorus reduction practices.	30	53	51	46	12*	23
4. Issue Certificate of Compliance (annual certification) for the Working Lands/Farmland Preservation Program	525	428	567	565	549	546
Priority 2 – Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network (LFDFN) The Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network is a locally driven effort that is farmer-led in nature. Through a process of research and implementation, farmers transition into new cropping practices and farm management practices that can improve soil health, expand crop yields and greatly reduce agricultural run-off on Brown County farms.						
1. Host field day events at demonstration farm sites that highlight new equipment, technologies, etc.	2	2	5	10	3	6 virtual events
2. Conduct conference/workshop	1	1	2	2	3	2
3. Present LFDFN information at regional water quality conferences	2	4	4	11	9	4
4. Group Tours of Demonstration Farms	4	7	6	6	3	0
5. Demo Farm Participants	8	6	7	8	8	18

Priority 3 – Animal Waste Management Ordinance The Animal Waste Management Ordinance regulates the location and construction of animal waste storage facilities and feedlots in order to better protect surface and groundwater in Brown County.						
1. Develop new nutrient management plans	1,000 acres	560	1,201	240	1,186	1,164
2. Review current nutrient management plans (acres reviewed & reported)	125,000 acres	131,428	125,782	125,000	130,198	147,147
3. Inspect farm operations that have >500 animal units	22	38	35	35	22	23
4. Prepare winter spreading plans upon request	55	80	55	67	71	51
5. Upon request, inspect animal waste and other complaints (complaint driven)	20	21	12	28	32	30
6. Construction practice installation	20	22	18	15	14	20
Priority 4 – Agriculture Shoreland Management Ordinance The Agriculture Shoreland Management Ordinance requires vegetated buffer strips along every stream in Brown County's unincorporated municipalities.						
1. Install riparian buffers (a vegetated buffer strip)	3-5 miles	4	3	2	2	3
Priority 5 – Priority Watershed Planning Watershed plans consistent with EPA's 9 key elements provide a framework for improving water quality in a holistic manner within a geographic watershed. Now that these plans have been developed, Brown County Land and Water Conservation wants to move into implementation.						
1. Collaborate with Outagamie County and DNR to inventory streams, cropland and production areas within the Lower East River and Bower Creek watersheds. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding proposal submitted. Continued pursuit of funding is necessary for implementation.	40 production sites, 96 miles stream, 12,000 cropland acres	1	1	1	1	1
2. Assist UWGB in the development of Mahon/Wequiock Creek 9-key element plan.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Priority 6 – Upper East River Watershed Project						
1. Meet with Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance	6	-	2	6	6	2
2. Acres of cover crop	1,000	-	-	600	1047	1200+

3. Acres of buffers	8	-	-	2	12	11.5
Priority 7 – Wildlife Damage Program The Wildlife Damage Program assists farmers when wildlife damages their crops. This may include damage prevention assistance and compensation to abate animal nuisances. Shooting permits may be issued in some instances. This program is implemented via landowner inquiries/damage complaints.						
1. Provide technical support to landowners	15	15	15	15	12	11
2. Provide cost-share for abatement to landowners	2	3	1	1	0	0
3. Process damage claims for crop loss	8	7	7	5	5	5
4. Coordinate with DNR application for shooting permits and damage claims.	5	7	8	8	5	5
Priority 8 – West Shore Northern Pike Habitat Restoration Project The West Shore Northern Pike Habitat Restoration Project is an effort to bring pike back to their historic breeding grounds through the restoration of their natural habitats. This includes restoring wetlands, reducing sediment and pollutants from entering the habitat area, installing vegetated buffers, and removing impediments to fish navigation. *Weather conditions in 2017 impacted construction of practices.						
1. Install riparian buffers/stream miles opened	3 miles	0	0*	5.25	.75*	.2
2. Install critical area habitat/wetland restorations	3 acres	1.5	0*	3.2	1.7*	7
3. Conduct area wide monitoring program to determine project success.	24 sites	24	23	23	22	24
4. Stream impediments removed	3	6	3	4	0*	1
Priority 9 – Assist DNR in drafting the Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan Total Maximum Daily Load is a regulatory term in the U.S. Clean Water Act which describes the maximum amount of pollutants that a body of water can receive while still meeting clean water quality standards. The Wisconsin DNR is involved in determining which TMDL standards must be achieved and by what timeframe in Brown County. Land and Water Conservation Dept. are critical to implementation of these goals.						
1. Attend bi-monthly planning meetings of Agricultural Runoff Team	6	5	5	6	6	2
2. Attend bi-monthly TMDL implementation team	6	5	5	6	6	4
Priority 10 – Land and Water Conservation Department Administration This section refers to programming and efforts that the Land and Water Conservation Department leads.						
1. Annual seedling tree sale	11,000	13,750	15,350	13,275	13,500	10,525
2. $.50 per agriculture acre fee (# bills sent)	3,350	3,973	3,205	3,200	3,341	3,331

*Due to wet weather conditions during spring/summer projects were not installed. Anticipate installation during following construction season.

3. Review non-metallic mining reclamation plans	3-5	7	9	2	4	8
4. Newsletter (in partnership with Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance's Basin Buzz)	2	1	2	2	-	1
Priority 11 – Groundwater Protection Areas Groundwater protection areas refer to locations where sensitivity is needed in order to protect groundwater quality.						
1. Provide cost-sharing to abandon unused wells	5	3	0	1	1	0
2. Soil depth verifications (acres)	500					610
Priority 12 – Targeted Performance Standards Implementation. Silurian Bedrock						
1. Send notification to landowners with soils 0-5ft	-	-	-	263	260	30
Priority 13 – Adaptive Management NEW Water: Dutchman and Ashwaubenon Creek						
1. Attend meetings	3	3	3	2	4	2
2. Technical assistance requests	6	3	4	3	2	1
Priority 14 – Plum/Kankapot Creeks Watershed Project (project completed December 2019)						
1. Meet with Outagamie County and Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance	20	20	25	20	25	-
2. Acres of cover crop	200	79.5	525	600	1212	-
3. Acres of buffers	4	9.65	14.23	23	32	-
4. Conservation practice installation	4	1	0	10	12	-
5. Concentrated flow protection Acres	8	12	3	-	-	-
Priority 15 – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program						
1. Riparian buffer, filter strips and wetland restoration landowner agreements	4		4	7	4	4

BROWN COUNTY 2020 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)
• *Cropland*		
Cropland conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions	Develop and implement 45 schedules of compliance to meet state conservation standards Assist landowners in complying with NR151 and ATCP50 – 9,000 acres Provide technical assistance including design preparation and construction oversight – 30 practices Grassed waterways – 8 acres Cover Crop – 5,000 acres No till – 10,000 acres Critical area – 5acres WASCOBs - 3	*151 Schedules of Compliance* *27,545 acres of landowner assistance* *23 practices assisted* *11 Acres of grassed waterways* *12,000 Acres of Cover Crop* *6,000 Acres of no-till* *0 Critical Area* *3 WASCOB's*
• *Livestock*		
Livestock facility conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions **Permits issued or obtained in connection with practices installed**	Install livestock practices within GLRI area of the county – 55 Barnyard runoff control – 5 Clean water diversions – 1,000 ft. Manure storage closure – 3 Stream crossing – 500 ft. Feed storage control – 1 Milking center waste water – 2 Riparian buffer – 10 acres Provide technical assistance including design preparation and construction oversight throughout the county. Issue permits in accordance with the Brown County Animal Waste Management ordinance – 15 permits	*19 practices installed* *0 Barnyard Controls* *0 Clean Water Diversions* *17 Waste Storage Closures* *757ft of Stream Crossings* *1 Feed Storage Runoff Control* *0 Milking Center Waste Water* *12 Acres of Buffers (Upper East)* *3 Manure to Energy sites Reviewed/Permitted* *21 Animal Waste Permits Issued*
• *Water quality*		
Conservation practices installed to implement LWRM priorities	Provide technical assistance including design preparation and construction oversight Conduct 24 farm inspections of operations >500	*37 Federally Funded Assisted Sites* *26 Farm Inspections >500 Animal Units*

BROWN COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions	Review 125,000 acres of current nutrient management plans (acres reviewed and reported) Develop 1,500 acres of new nutrient management plans Prepare 60 winter spreading plans/issue permits Inspect/follow-up on 35 animal waste complaints	*147,147 Acres of Nutrient Management reviewed* *1,164 Acres of New Nutrient Management Plans* *51 Winter Spreading Plans issued* *30 Animal Waste*

- *Forestry*

Tree Sale	Annual spring tree seedling sale 10,000 seedlings	*10,525 Seedlings Sold*

- *Wildlife*

Northern Pike Restoration Project	Install 1 mile of riparian buffers Install 3 acres of wetland restorations Conduct area wide monitoring program at 25 sites Remove 3 impediments	*.2 miles of Riparian Buffers Installed* *7 Acres of Wetlands Restored/Created* *24 Sites Monitored* *1 Impediment removed*

- *Watershed*

Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network implementation	Host 2 large and 10 small field day events, producer focused field days 10 on-site tours Conduct 2 conferences/workshops Present LFDFN information at 6 regional conferences	*6 Virtual Events* *0 Group Tours* *0 Workshops conducted* *4 presentations delivered*
Upper East Watershed Project	Install 2,500 acres of cover crops-total project Install 10 acres of riparian buffers	*1200 Acres of Cover Crops* *12 Acres of Riparian Buffers*

- *Other*

Other	*Non-metallic and frac sand mining*	*8 Non-Metallic Plan Reviews*

BROWN COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	8	8
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	4	4
Manure storage closure	3	3
Livestock facility siting	-	-
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	2	0
Winter spreading permits	65	60
Ordinance Violation	4	4

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	90
For FPP	45
For NR 151	40
Animal waste ordinance	55
Livestock facility siting	-
Nonmetallic mining	3

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	12
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	1
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	1
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	100
News release/story	10

BROWN COUNTY 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

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

Staff/Support	**Hours**	**Costs**
County Conservationist	2096	$109,163
Assistant County Conservationist	2096	$98,225
Project Manager	3144	$118,356
Technician (engineering, agronomy)	12,576	$492,450
Intern	960	$12,735
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	-	$58,000
SEG	-	$8,000
Other	-	$426,508

BROWN COUNTY 2021 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)
• *Cropland*		
Cropland conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions	Develop and implement 55 schedules of compliance to meet state conservation standards Assist landowners in complying with NR151 and ATCP50 – 10,000 acres Provide technical assistance including design preparation and construction oversight – 40 practices Grassed waterways – 8 acres Cover Crop – 5,000 acres No till – 10,000 acres Critical area –3 acres WASCOBs - 3	*# of schedules of compliance developed* *Acres complying with NR151 and ATCP50* *# of practices required technical assistance*
• *Livestock*		
Livestock facility conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions **Permits issued or obtained in connection with practices installed**	Install livestock practices within GLRI area of the county – 20 Barnyard runoff control – 1 Clean water diversions – 1,000 ft. Manure storage closure – 6 Stream crossing – 1,000 ft. Feed storage control – 1 Milking center waste water – 1 Riparian buffer – 10 acres Provide technical assistance to 30 landowners including design preparation and construction oversight throughout the county. Issue permits in accordance with the Brown County Animal Waste Management ordinance – 10 permits	*# practices installed* *# Technical assistance provided* *# permits issued through the Animal Waste Management Ordinance*

BROWN COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Water quality*

Conservation practices installed to implement LWRM priorities **Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions**	Provide technical assistance including design preparation and construction oversight Conduct 24 farm inspections of operations >500 animal units. 15 farm inspections under 500 AU Review 130,000 acres of current nutrient management plans (acres reviewed and reported) Develop 1,500 acres of new nutrient management plans Prepare 55 winter spreading plans/issue permits Inspect/follow-up on 35 animal waste complaints	*# of practices installed* *# farms >500 AU inspected* *#farms under 500 AU inspected* *Acres of NMP reviewed and or developed* *# winter spreading plans/permits issued* *# animal waste complaints investigated*

- *Forestry*

Tree Sale	Annual spring tree seedling sale 10,000 seedlings	*Number of trees sold*

- *Wildlife*

Northern Pike Restoration Project	Install 1 mile of riparian buffers Install 3 acres of wetland restorations Conduct area wide monitoring program at 10 sites Remove 2 impediments	*Acres of wetland restored* *# impediments removed* *Miles of riparian buffers* *# monitoring sites*

- *Watershed*

Lower Fox Demonstration Farm Network implementation **Upper East Watershed Project**	Host 1 large and 3 small field day events, producer focused field days 10 virtual tours Conduct 1 conferences/workshops Present LFDFN information at 1 regional conferences Install 2,500 acres of cover crops	*# field days* *# tours* *# workshops/conferences* *Acres of cover crops*

	Install 10 acres of riparian buffers	*Acres of buffers*

- *Other*

Other	*Review and conduct site visit on 3 NM mine sites*	*# of inspections*

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	8	10
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	6	6
Manure storage closure	10	5
Livestock facility siting	-	-
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	3	0
Winter spreading permits	55	55
Ordinance Violation	4	4

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	105
For FPP	60
For NR 151	40
Animal waste ordinance	55
Livestock facility siting	-
Nonmetallic mining	3

BROWN COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours-Virtual	10
Field Days	4
Trainings/workshops	1
Brown County Water Summit	1
Newsletters	2
Social media posts	100 plus
News release/story	8

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2088	$109,840
Assistant County Conservationist	2088	$98,669
Project Manager	2088	$88,829
Technician (engineering, agronomy)	12,528	$495,881
Intern	1440	$19,104
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	-	$38,330
SEG	-	$8,000
Other	-	$180,500

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: **July 23, 2021**

TO: **Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors**

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

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the Pierce *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, 2031, and would be subject to a five year review prior to December 31, 2026.

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

Pierce County held a public hearing on May 27, 2021, as part of its public input and review process. The Pierce 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
- 2020 workplan with accomplishments and current 2021 workplan

Presenters: Rodney Webb, Pierce County Land Conservation Director
Jerry Kosin, Land Conservation Committee Chair

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: PIERCE Date Plan Submitted for Review: 5/10/2021

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)	☒	☐	2

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	survey, on-line
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan[1]	5/27/21
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]	August

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	☒	☐	10-13,17, 21,35, 36
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county[3], including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	☒	☐	20

[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	☒	☐	18-21
iii. identification of areas within the county that have water quality problems that merit action within the next 10 years.	☒	☐	Chap 2 App E
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	☒	☐	Chap 2
b. pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available	☒	☐	Chap 2
Other comments: current load reductions can be found within TMDL			

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	☒	☐	3
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	☒	☐	35-36
b. State and local regulations used to implement the plan	☒	☐	14-15
c. Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations	☒	☐	37,39-40
d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems	☒	☐	App H
e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	☒	☐	37,38 App I
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	☒	☐	W.P.

[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.

b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	☒	☐	W.P.
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	☒	☐	37-38

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	☒	☐	36-37
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	☒	☐	40-42

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	☒	☐	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	☒	☐	40,43

Other comments: ____

_

[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.

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: No

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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: Lisa K. Trumble Date: July 20, 2021

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

County: Pierce

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.
   Pierce County's 2016 - 2021 LWRM plan focused on addressing cropland soil losses, the detrimental affects of excessive runoff to our numerous cold-water streams and prevention of groundwater quality deterioration. Partnerships with local, state and federal agencies along with non-government organizations have been critical to successful plan implementation. Highlights of the last five years of conservation efforts include:
   A. HUC12 Watershed approach - LCD staff partnered with USDA-NRCS to submit a project proposal for funding under the Mississippi River Basin Initiative. A total of 10 sub-watersheds have received targeted efforts to encourage landowners to adopt conservation practices that increase infiltration, reduce topsoil losses and reduce runoff to surface waters. No-till planting and cover crops, were common practices installed on dozens of farms in these 10 sub-watersheds. LCD staff assisted with planning, designing and installing 70 grade stabilization structures, 218 acres of grassed waterways, 35 well abandonments and 10 sinkhole repairs in the last 5 years.
   B. Farmland Preservation Program - The Northwest Pierce County AEA was established, currently has 23 agreements covering 4,803 acres. All participants received an on-farm compliance review for NR151 standards & prohibitions. Annual compliance self-certification is conducted and on-farm status reviews are conducted on 20% of total participants each year.
   C. Groundwater & surface water quality monitoring. Pierce County Board of Supervisors approved funding to conduct a county-wide groundwater study. Beginning in 2019, collaboration with Pierce County Public Health Department, UWEX and University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point Groundwater Center, residents in 3 townships were offered the opportunity to participate in the groundwater quality study. All samples (258) were analyzed nitrates and bacteria along with several other water quality parameters. The study was suspended in 2020 due to Covid -19, but is scheduled to be resumed in 2021 and 2022. Surface water quality monitoring in the Trimbelle River and Rush River was conducted in 2019. Results from 6 months of sampling showed both rivers phosphorus levels are well below the DNR impairment levels. Watershed assessment plans for these rivers have been completed to promote protection of the current water quality levels.

D. Farmer-Led Watershed Project LCD staff continued to assist the South Kinni Farmer-Led Watershed Council with their efforts to promote increased conservation practice implementation. This watershed area is part of the St. Croix River Basin TMDL
E. Voluntary Conservation - Many landowners throught out the county contact LCD staff every year seeking assistance to address resource concerns. Great value is placed on this strong conservation ethic so LCD staff diligently work to ensure all landowners receive solutions to address their resource concerns.

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.

Development of a systematic approach to conducting NR151 evaluations is an ongoing challenge. Pierce County LCD conducts a review of NR 151 compliance for Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) participants as well as County Animal Waste Storage Ordinance permit applications. Staff resources necessary to conduct evaluations on all farms is not available and lack of convenient, affordable, useful software to track evaluations are roadblocks to meeting this segment of our plan. If significant violations of NR 151 are discovered, Pierce County does use available programs such as TRM or NOD to address the discharge issue.

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?

Pierce County's priority farm strategy is based on evaluating a farm's compliance with NR 151 standards while implementing conservation measures on the farm. Examples include a landowner that is receiving cost share assistance to install a conservation practice, applying for a Animal Waste Storage Ordinance permit, enrolling in FPP or when addressing a runoff compliant received. Compliance with sheet & rill erosion is the most common standard that is addressed. Recently LCD staff have identifed 3 critical source area definitions that we are now using to prioritize areas that we focus our work on. Cropland with 12% or greater slopes, hydrologic group D soils (poorly drained) and surface water quality management areas (cropland or pastureland within 300 feet of surface water). Future cost share funding considerations will give preference to projects that are located in a critical source area.

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.

Water quality monitoring of both surface and ground water has become a higher priority in recent years. Development of watershed assessment plans brought to light the lack of surface water quality data for Pierce County streams. Watershed scale changes take many years to show results, so we added to the annual workplan to collborate with DNR to obtain baseline data on the streams in which we plan to use the targeted watershed approach.

Pierce County last completed a county-wide ground water study in 1989. Although ground water protection is an important aspect of the LWRM plan, conducting a new study was a small adjustment in our annual plan of work.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

a. The most current annual work plan, prepared in the current format from DATCP, and addresses all required items such as needed funding and staff hours.

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 an 8-10 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's review supplements, but does not replace compliance with the DATCP checklist for LWRM plan approval. This encourages and supports honest presentations from the county. The county is strongly encouraged to have the LCC chair or committee member be a part of the presentation to the Board to contribute policy and other insights to the discussion. 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: 5-27-2021

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____ **Date:** 5-27-21
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

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

PIERCE 2020 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)
• *Cropland*		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management ***Goal II: Encourage farmers to adopt modern farming practices to reduce topsoil losses***	*Focus Area: Rush River (MRBI) and Eau Galle River* *Erosion control practice installations:* ***20** acres waterway systems* ***10** grade stabilization structures* ***1500** acres cover crops seeded* ***700** acres NM plan developed* *County-wide Transect survey completed (SNAP PLUS)* *No-till drill program offered to residents* ***500** acres enrolled in North-West AEA* *Conservation plans reviewed & updated for all LWRM & County cost share recipients*	***12.6** acres waterway systems (County & LWRM)* ***27.7** acres waterway systems (MRBI & EQIP)* *4 grade stabilization structures (County & LWRM)* ***14** grade stabilization structures (MRBI & EQIP)* ***8414** acres cover crops seeded (MRBI & EQIP)* ***725** acres NM plan developed.* ***12,686** # of annual phosphorus reduced from above practices.* ***8,254** Tons of annual sediment reduced from above practices.* ***~18%** total cropland in county covered under NM plan (checklists received)* *County-wide Transect survey completed (SNAP PLUS)* *No-till drill program **675 acres.*** ***1715 acres** of conservation plans revised with landowners. receiving cost share from County & DATCP sources*
• *Livestock*		
Livestock ***Goal I: Improve and protect surface and ground water quality***	*Practice installation* ***1** clean water diversion* ***1** critical area stabilization* ***1** manure storage closure* ***10** acres managed grazing system* *Manure storage ordinance permitted facilities inspected* *Nutrient management plans reviewed for ordinance permit farms*	***1** Underground Outlet (clean water diversion)* ***11.7** acres Critical area stabilization (MRB & EQIP)* ***3** Manure storage structure closure* ***83.6** acres Managed grazing systems installed (MRBI & EQIP)* ***3.5** acres Critical Area Stabilization*
• *Water quality*		
Water quality/quantity ***Goal I: Improve and protect surface and ground water quality***	*Practice installation* ***2** well closures* ***2** sinkhole treatments* ***2** CREP Re-enrollments or new sign-up* ***275** wells sampled and analyzed (County Cost Share Program) (Partnership with Public Health & UWEX)* *Surface water monitoring (Isabelle River)*	***6** well closures* ***3** sinkhole treatments* ***Program Postponed** Wells Sampled (Homeowner package)* ***Program Postponed** ground water education meetings.* ***WDNR suspended program** Surface water monitoring on Trimbelle & Rush Rivers*

PIERCE 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat ***Goal V: Ensure fish and wildlife habitat is restored and maintained***	*Wildlife damage program* *Tree and plant sales*	*Wildlife Damage Program available to Landowners* ***9,500** trees sold*

- *Watershed*

Watershed strategies ***Goal I: Improve and protect surface and ground water quality***	***Watershed Assessment Plans completed for Goose Creek & Rush River (Town of Martell HUC12)*** *TMDL coordination (St. Croix River TMDL)* *Producer-led watershed support (South Kinni)* *Watershed based approach to target conservation Rush River and Eau Galle River*	***Watershed assessment plans for Goose Creek, Spring Creek, Little Trimbelle River, Rush River (Town of Martell) and Crystal Springs submitted to USDA-NRCS in May and approved for MRBI funding in July 2020*** *Provided engineering assistance to USDA-NRCS for MRBI funded conservation practices* *Provided Administrative & technical support to South Kinni Producer-Led Watershed Council* *All installed conservation practices mapped in GIS*

- *Other*

Other	*PL 566 Flood Control Structure Inspection & Maintenance*	*All structures mowed* ***Bay City #1 pipe separation repair completed*** *Structures inspected in May & October Bay City, Maiden Rock and Plum Creek Streak* ***Nine** participants in environmental poster contest* ***Four** participants in environmental speaking contest*

PIERCE 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	0	
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	0	
Manure storage closure	3	
Livestock facility siting	0	
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	0	
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	1	
Shoreland zoning	1	
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	1	
Other		

Table 3: Planned inspections

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

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	0
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	4
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	2
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	0
News release/story	4

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	$96,116
Technicians (2)	*4160*	*$180,378*
Conservation Planner	*2080*	*$82,472*
Conservation Program Specialist	2080	$55,474
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
SWRM Bond	*N/A*	*$60,000.00*
SWRM SEG	*N/A*	$20,000.00
DNR- MDV	*N/A*	*$15,000.00*
County Cost Sharing		*$57,500.00*
MRBI (USDA-NRCS)		*$500,000.00*

PIERCE 2021 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)
• *Cropland*		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	Focus Area: Trimbelle River (MRBI) Erosion control practice installations: **20** acres waterway systems **10** grade stabilization structures **500** Feet Stream Bank Stabilization **1500** acres cover crops seeded **500** acres NM plan developed County-wide Transect survey completed (SNAP PLUS) No-till drill program offered to residents **500** acres enrolled in North-West AEA Conservation plans reviewed & updated for all LWRM & County cost share recipients	Type and units of practice(s) installed # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method) Transect survey completed # Acres enrolled in Northwest Pierce County AEA # Conservation plans updated # Acres of No-till drill rental
• Livestock		
Livestock	Practice installation **1** critical area stabilization **1** manure storage closure **10** acres managed grazing system Manure storage ordinance permitted facilities inspected Nutrient management plans reviewed for ordinance permit farms	Type and units of practice(s) installed # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method) # of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard
• Water quality		
Water quality/quantity	Practice installation **2** well closures **2** sinkhole treatments **2** CREP Re-enrollments or new sign-up **275** wells sampled and analyzed (County Cost Share Program) (Partnership with Public Health & UWEX) Surface water monitoring (Isabelle River)	Type and units of practice(s) installed # lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method) # lbs of P reduced (using any approved method) # Wells Sampled # Residents attended ground water education meetings Surface water monitoring completed
•		

PIERCE 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Wildlife*

Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat	Wildlife damage program offered to landowners Tree and plant sales	# participants # of trees sold

- Urban

Urban issues	Construction site erosion control	Number of site visits Number of plans reviews

- Watershed

Watershed strategies	Watershed Assessment Plans Implemented for Trimbelle & Rush River with funding from MRBI Producer-led Watershed (South Kinni)	Implementation of targeted watershed approach in Trimbelle & Rush Rivers (5 HUC12 watersheds)(MRBI funding) Assistance to PLW council, farm walkovers completed & practices installed in watershed area

- Other

Other	PL 566Maintenance & Mowing Lake Monitoring & Protection Contract with UWRF to conduct Invasive Species Information & Education	Number of inspections, mowings & repairs completed # of educational events # of inspections/ studies

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

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

PIERCE 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	*5*
For FPP	*5*
For NR 151	
Animal waste ordinance	10
Livestock facility siting	
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	1
Nonmetallic mining	

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

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

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
LCD Director (County Conservationist)	2080	98,821.00
Planner	2080	84,538.00
Technicians	4160	190.506.00
Program Specialist	2080	79,505.00
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
SWRM bonding & County Cost Share	*N/A*	*$140,750*
SEG	*N/A*	$20,000
MDV	*N/A*	*$20,000*

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: **July 23, 2021**

TO: **Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors**

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

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the Waupaca *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, 2031, and would be subject to a five year review prior to December 31, 2026.

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

Waupaca County held a public hearing on July 19, 2021, as part of its public input and review process. The Waupaca 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
- 2020 workplan with accomplishments and current 2021 workplan

Presenters: Brian Haase, Waupaca County Conservationist
Dan McFarlane, GIS/Conservation Technician
DuWayne Ferderwitz, Land and Water Conservation Committee Chair

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: WAUPACA Date Plan Submitted for Review: 6/10/2021

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)	☒	☐	9

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	6/23/21
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan[1]	7/19/21
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]	August

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	☒	☐	Chap 3
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county[3], including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	☒	☐	41
ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources	☒	☐	Chap 3

[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.	☒	☐	Chap 3
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	☒	☐	Chap 3
b. pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available	☒	☐	Chap 3
Other comments: TMDL and 9KE plan implementation will be the focus on soil erosion and water quality issues (TSS)			

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	☒	☐	front
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	☒	☐	81
b. State and local regulations used to implement the plan	☒	☐	7-9 Chap 5
c. Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations	☒	☐	81-82
d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address identified water quality and erosion problems	☒	☐	App C
e. A system for meeting county responsibilities to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	☒	☐	10,79, 82
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	☒	☐	WP

[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.

b. the staff time needed to provide technical assistance and education and outreach to implement the plan.	☒	☐	WP
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	☒	☐	79

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	☒	☐	81,88
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	☒	☐	16,88

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	☒	☐	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	☒	☐	82

Other comments: __

___

[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.

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: The county has three approved 9 Key element plans

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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: Lisa K. Trumble Date: July 20, 2021

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

County: Waupaca

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.

1) In the past 5 years (2015-2020) Waupaca County has increased its annual acreage of Nutrient Management Plans submitted to the county by 17.4%, 15.8%, 7.1%, 14.7% and 10.5% respectively. The Waupaca County LWRM work plans generally call for a 3% to 5% increase annually. This was a direct result of Goal A (Implement NR 151 compliance) and Goal C (Update, or re-create, the Waupaca County Farmland Preservation Plan) from pages 72 and 80 of the 2012-2021 LWRM Plan. The planning process from the 2012 LWRM plan outlined our need to put a strong effort into increasing NMP acres to gain NR 151 compliance. The county was stagnant at around 20% to 25% county coverage of NMP from prior to 2011 through 2014. In late 2014, the county hired a specific position to concentrate on NMP and Farmland Preservation to address that effort. The results are the numbers outlined in the opening statement above.
2) Waupaca County has implemented 6 Small Scale TRM grants and begun implementing 2 Large Scale TRM grants since 2016 in order to work towards achieving Goal A (Implement NR 151 compliance: Protect & improve surface water quality) from the 2012 LWRM Plan. Specific actions within that goal called for an increase of soft cropping practices, such as cover crops, to address farmland erosion control. Since DATCP provides no funding for such soft cropping practices, Large Scale TRM grants or other sources are needed to provide cost share incentive. Prior to each TRM grant application, significant planning must occur to fulfill the application process. In the case of the two Large Scale applications, Waupaca created Nine Key Element Plans for each Large Scale TRM Watershed. Those plans identify the needs of each watershed in which a grant application is made.
3) Waupaca County LWCD has performed 256 farm inspections related to the Farmland Preservation Program in the past four year cycle. Each of the annual county work plans has called for 25-50 inspections. The creation of the new Waupaca County Farmland Preservation Plan has become the largest driver of inspections through adjustments made to our Priority Farm Strategy, in 2015, as further described in #3 below.

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.

We have no areas identified. The county has focused most of its time on the main two goals (Goals A & C) from the 2012 plan. Therefore, our annual work plan includes mostly activities that we believe are achievable and related to those goals.

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?

   Waupaca County's Priority Farm Identification Strategy as defined by the 2012 LWRM plan was:
   1) Existing FP.
   2) Livestock Operations in the WQMA.
   3) New FP.
   4) All other livestock operations.

   By the 2016 Five Year LWCB Review, Waupaca County noted that the Priority Farm Identification Strategy had already been re-evaluated and informally changed to:
   1) Complaints & NOD's.
   2) New FP.
   3) High Ranking or Priority Watersheds.
   4) Operations in the WQMA.
   5) All others.

   The reasons for the change in Priority Farm Strategy were all due to the changing factors within our operational sphere of influence. First, landowner complaints, often resulting in DNR NOD's, were fairly rare prior to 2012. However, public education of farm laws, manure management issues and non-point source pollution seem to come to the media forefront in the time frame from 2012 to 2016 in NE Wisconsin. This was likely due to the expanding number of large farms and increased news coverage of runoff events. The effect was a public more willing to contact a unit of government regarding a manure issue. Second, Waupaca County's existing, pre 2009, FP contracts rapidly dwindled to near zero by 2015, making their compliance a relative non-issue. At the same time (2014-2015) Waupaca County adopted its first ever FP zoning ordinance, now in 10 townships, that saw heavy initial participation. That participation shifted workload to compliance inspections in the new FP area. Lastly, Waupaca County was awarded a NRCS-NWQI watershed in in 2013 and another in 2017. Waupaca LWCD and NRCS have a close working relationship in which NRCS relies heavily on county staff for hard practice BMP engineering and design. The LWCD took these funding opportunities to pursue NR 151 compliance within the NWQI areas as a matter of convenience. The 2017 NWQI project led to Waupaca County's first 9KE planning effort and the further pursuit of a priority watershed based strategy for both funding and implementation. As the life of the 2012-2021 LWRM plan comes to an end, Waupaca County now has 3 approved 9KE plans in watersheds identified as key in the Upper Fox-Wolf TMDL. Outreach for the Priority Farm Identification Strategy has improved with the change in priorities. Complaints and NOD work, by definition, needs no outreach. That has been done for us by the news media. Outreach for the new Farmland Preservation began in the 2014 planning process with town meetings and now follows with yearly mailings to promote the program. Outreach to Priority Watershed areas with specialized funding is done with

GIS using layers created within the 9KE plans to target specific landowners for various practices.

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.

1) In the past two years Waupaca County has received Pilot Project funding from DATCP to implement Harvestable Riparian Buffers to help implement surface water quality goals. The idea of Harvestable Buffers was located nowhere in the 2012 LWRM Plan or any other plan. Buffers only existed in the context of CRP or CREP, which are not allowed to be harvested, and therefore were not a very popular BMP. So Harvestable Buffer implementation was added to the 2020 and 2021 Waupaca County LWRM work plan. In 2020, a goal of 50 acres of Harvestable Buffer was included and 68.3 acres were implemented.
2) Due to the creation of three Nine Key Element Watershed plans since 2018, Waupaca now puts extra focus on its LWRM plan goals in these specific areas due to the available funding for 9KE implementation. In the 2012 LWRM plan the top goal was to "Protect and improve the quality of surface water resources", however, 9KE plans were not yet invented or named as such. For example in 2020, Waupaca included a LWRM work plan goal of implementing 500 acres of cover crops and was able to exceed that with implementation of over 2500 acres due to the 9KE funding.
3) See the first answer to #3 above regarding the change in Priority Farm Strategy. This has led to work plan goal inclusion of items related to the new FP, such as inspections, AEA contract acres, etc.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

a. The most current annual work plan, prepared in the current format from DATCP, and addresses all required items such as needed funding and staff hours.

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 an 8-10 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's review supplements, but does not replace compliance with the DATCP checklist for LWRM plan approval. This encourages and supports honest presentations from the county. The county is strongly encouraged to have the LCC chair or committee member be a part of the presentation to the Board to contribute policy and other insights to the discussion. 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: July 19, 2021

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____ **Date:** 7/19/2024

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

WAUPACA 2020 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)
• *Cropland*		
Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation	Conduct 20 farm inspections & document compliance status for new FPP participants in 10 Townships with FP zoning. Make 20 offers of cost share for Nutrient Management Plan enforcement in accordance with NR 151.07, NR 151.09 & Waupaca CH 51	*Conducted 69 Farm (Field) Inspections for FPP.* *12 New FP COC issued* *Made 24 offers of cost share for NMP.*
Cropland conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions. LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation	Install 5-10 gully erosion control practices. Implement 15 new NM plans through farmer training sessions, staff training, FP or cost sharing.	*Installed 12 WASCOBS & 2 Grassed Waterways* *Implemented 11 new NMP's via c/s or training (COVID Affected)*
Maintain and promote better nutrient management plans. LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72, Sec. E, Pg 86.	Conduct 1 group Farmer Training Sessions. Conduct 20 or more Individual Farmer Training Sessions or updates. Review 75% or more (~140) of incoming NMP's as time allows and work with agronomists/landowners to correct issues. Increase County area covered by NMP by 4% per year	*Staff agronomist developed 1,447 new NMP acres through training.* *Staff conducted 4 individual farmer trainings (COVID Affected))* *County accepted 141 plans totaling 93,163 Ac., an increase of 10.5% from 2019.* *Staff reviewed 100% of accepted NMP's and contacted agronomists as needed for corrections.*
Create, facilitate and manage grant for Upper Fox-Wolf Basin Demonstration Farm Network to promote soil health and field BMP's through Waupaca County and the UF-W Basin.	Implement Demo Farm Network with 10 farms throughout UF-W Basin and work to grow Network.	*Contracted Agronomist worked with 10 Demo farms on 2000 acres throughout UF-W Basin.* *One Field Day event held in County (COVID Affected))*
Cropland conservation practices installed to implement TMDL goals, 9KE Plan goals and/or state performance standards.	Install 300-500 acres of cover crop or no-till practices using Large Scale TRM funds. Install 50 acres of harvestable buffer practices using Large Scale TRM funds or DATCP pilot project funds.	*Installed 2,514 acres of cover crops w/ Large Scale TRM* *Installed 68.3 acres of Harvestable Buffers w DATCP/DNR funds* *Installed 350 acres new no-till w/ Large Scale TRM*

WAUPACA 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Livestock*

Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation	Conduct 20 farm inspections & document compliance status for new FPP participants in 10 Townships with FP zoning. Conduct 1-10 farm inspections outside FP areas that have NR 151 compliance issues.	*Conducted 9 Farm (Farmstead) inspections for FPP* *Conducted 3 Farm (Farmstead) inspections for NR 151*
Livestock facility conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation	Install agricultural BMPs to reduce animal waste (phosphorous) runoff as identified by inventory or complaint. Design & implement 1-3 large agricultural waste and/or containment runoff systems	*Installed 2 Roof Runoff Systems* *Installed 3 Manure Storage/Transfer systems* *Completed 4 Manure Storage closures* *Completed 1 Livestock Watering System and 5300' of Fence*

- *Water quality*

Protect water quality through CREP. LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation	Implement 2-5 CREP Contracts with assistance from NRCS/FSA.	*Implemented 3 CREP Contracts*
Promote Groundwater awareness. LWRM CH. 5, Sec. D, Pg 84- Groundwater& Karst Concerns	Continue follow up from Waupaca County Baseline Well Inventory Report based on 2017 & 2018 sampling program. Re-sample 1-2 "hotspot areas" with remaining funds.	*Delayed additional well testing to coincide with possible state legislation to provide testing grants.*
Lake and Stream Protection. LWRM CH. 5, Sec F, Pg 89 Lake & Stream Protection	Install 4 rain gardens through county program. Develop 10 shoreline mitigation plans for zoning permits/violations. Apply for/Implement DNR Healthy Lakes Grant Program on 1-5 sites. Continue coordinating/monitoring Citizen Monitoring efforts on 20 stream sites and 4-8 lakes.	*Developed/Installed 17 Shoreland Mitigation Plans* *Acquired 2 Healthy Lakes Grants for Shoreline BMP's* *Staff monitored 19 stream sites and 3 lakes for Baseflow*
Start inventory of unused manure storage structures in county per Waupaca CH 51.	Inspect 3-5 structures and offer c/s if they need to be closed.	*Inspected 5 structures and offered cost share for closure.*

- *Forestry*

Encourage forestry, habitat and tree planting. LWRM CH. 5, Sec J, Pg 100 – Forestry & Wildlife	Sell 35,000 trees through County Tree Sale. Promote EQIP forestry practices. Assist RC&D with Forestry Block Grants	*Held County Tree Sale. Sold 33,750 trees.*

- *Invasive*

Assist landowners with Identification & Elimination of AIS. LWRM CH. 5, Sec F, Pg 89 Lake & Stream Protection.	Continue Waupaca County AIS Plan activities as applicable. Financially support Golden Sands RC&D as our AIS	*GS RC&D conducted CBCW and other AIS activities in Waupaca County*

WAUPACA 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Waupaca County AIS Plan.	contractor.	

- *Wildlife*

Administer WDACP (Ag. Damage program & Venison Donation) LWRM CH.5, Sec J, Pg 100 – Forestry & Wildlife	Assist 10 landowners with damage claims or shooting permits. Administer Venison Donation Program.	*2 animal damage claims facilitated* *Assisted 23 landowners with animal damage issues* *Delivered 879 lbs. of venison to 9 pantries*

- *Urban*

Urban issues		

- *Watershed*

Watershed Protection. LWRM CH.5 Sec. G, Pg 96 – Establish programs to make additional funds available for NPS abatement.	Apply for and secure Large Scale TRM Grant Funds in a Waupaca County 9 Key Element Planned Watershed.	*Applied for 2 Large Scale TRM grants, received one for $600,000* *Applied for one Small Scale TRM Grant, received one for $221,591* *Completed 3rd 9KE plan within Waupaca County*

- *Other*

Program Evaluation & Monitoring. LWRM CH.5 Sec. H, Pg 97 – Program Evaluation & Monitoring strategy.	Report to county board Meet with lake districts and associations. Report to DATCP, DNR. File TRM & NOD Grant reports. Coordinate with DNR on stream sampling.	*Conducted annual report to County Board* *Completed TRM Grant Reports as required.*
Information & Education. LWRM CH.5 Sec, K, Pg 103 - Information & Education Strategy	Conduct 5th Grade Conservation Field Days. Provide RC&D contracted groundwater education to schools. Yearly department newsletter. Sponsor WLWCA Speaking Contests Staff speak at FVTC Cow college Host project for annual county board tour	*Conducted Virtual 5th Grade Conservation Field Day (COVID Affected) with RC&D assistance.* *RC&D contracted to conduct virtual Groundwater education module in county schools.*
Permits issued or obtained in connection with practices installed. LWRM CH.5, Sec. B, Pg 76- Stormwater Imp. & Sec. E, Pg 86- Permit/Ord. Admin. Farmland Preservation	Issue 2-5 manure storage permits. Obtain all necessary WRAPP Stormwater Permits for c/s projects. Obtain Cultural Resources Certification. Assist current AEA landowners in implementing 10-20 FP agreements in the two current AEA's.	*Issued 3 Waste Storage Permits* *4 new AEA Agreements signed.*

WAUPACA 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Obtain funding to meet all goals.	Apply for Large Scale TRM Grant Apply for 1 or more NOD Grants Assist NRCS with 5-10 EQIP applications Apply for River Planning Grant	*Acquired $821,591 of new DNR TRM grant funding* *Spent $172,295.82 of prior DNR TRM grant funding* *Spent/allocated $66,100 DATCP Bonding* *Spent/allocated $95,000 DATCP Bonding* *Spent/allocated $50,000 DATCP Pilot Project Funds* *Spent $259.197 NRCS EQIP Funds (LWCD Staff projects)* *Spent $6,143 DNR MDV Funds*
Land & Water Resource Management Planning	Begin work on the 2022-2031 Waupaca County LWRM Plan	*Began Plan re-write late 2020.*

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	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1-10	3
Manure storage closure	1-2	2
Livestock facility siting	N/A	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	N/A	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	3-5	4
Shoreland zoning	N/A	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	1-3	2
Other		

WAUPACA 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	*25*
For FPP	*20*
For NR 151	*5*
Animal waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	N/A
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	N/A
Nonmetallic mining	N/A

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	4
Field days	4
Trainings/workshops	20
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	5
Newsletters	2
Direct Mailings(25-150 each)	8
News release/story	2

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	*$90,000*
Technicians(3)	6240	*$260,000*
Agronomist	2080	*$85,000*
Support Staff	1200	*$20,000*
Independent contractor	500	*$12,000*
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	*N/A*	*$100,000*
SEG	*N/A*	*$200,000*
MDV	*N/A*	*$6500*
TRM	*N/A*	*$500,000*
EQIP	*N/A*	*$500,000*

 # acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard
# of FP Certificates issued
# of Nutrient Management Plans received
# of Nutrient Management Plans reviewed

WAUPACA COUNTY 2021 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)
• *Cropland*		
Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions or TMDL goals. **LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation**	Conduct 30 farm inspections & document compliance status for new FPP participants in 10 Townships with FP zoning. Make 10-20 offers of cost share for Nutrient Management Plans in accordance with NR 151.07, NR 151.09 & Waupaca CH 51	*Type and units of practice(s) installed* *Amount of cost-share dollars spent* *# lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)* *# lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)* *# acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard* *# of FP Certificates issued* *# of Nutrient Management Plans received* *# of Nutrient Management Plans reviewed*
Cropland conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions or address TMDL goals. **LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation**	Install 5-10 gully erosion control practices. Implement 15 new NM plans through farmer training sessions, staff training, FP or cost sharing.	
Maintain and promote better nutrient management plans. LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72, Sec. E, Pg 86.	Conduct 20 or more Individual Farmer Training Sessions or updates. Review 75% or more (~150) of incoming NMP's as time allows and work with agronomists/landowners to correct issues. Increase County area covered by NMP by 3% per year	
Facilitate and manage grant for Upper Fox-Wolf Basin Demonstration Farm Network to promote soil health and field BMP's through Waupaca County and the UF-W Basin.	Implement Demo Farm Network with 10 farms throughout UF-W Basin and work to grow Network. Host Demo field days, share soil health information, provide new opportunities for soil health and WQ.	*# of soil health or crop BMP acres* *# of Field Day events held in County or Basin* *# of producers reached for educational purpose*
Cropland conservation practices installed to implement TMDL goals, 9KE Plan goals and/or state performance standards.	Install 3000 acres of cover crop or no-till practices using Large Scale TRM funds. Install 40 acres of harvestable buffers using Large Scale TRM funds and/or DATCP pilot project funds.	*# lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)* *# lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)* *# of soil health or crop BMP acres*

WAUPACA COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Livestock*

Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions or TMDL Goals **LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation**	Conduct 30 farm inspections & document compliance status for new FPP participants in 10 Townships with FP zoning. Conduct 1-10 farm inspections outside FP areas that have NR 151 compliance issues.	*Type and units of practice(s) installed* *Amount of cost-share dollars spent* *# lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)* *# lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)* *# of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard* *# of FP Certificates issued*
Livestock facility conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions or TMDL goals. **LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation**	Install agricultural BMPs to reduce animal waste (phosphorous) runoff as identified by inventory or complaint. Design & implement 1-3 large agricultural waste and/or containment runoff systems	

- *Water quality*

Protect water quality through CREP. **LWRM CH. 5, Sec. A, Pg 72- Ag. Perf. Stnds. Implementation**	Implement 2-5 CREP Contracts with assistance from NRCS/FSA.	*Type and units of practice(s) installed* *Amount of cost-share dollars spent* *# lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)* *# lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)* *# of CREP Contracts implemented* *# of Wells Sampled*
Promote Groundwater awareness. **LWRM CH. 5, Sec. D, Pg 84- Groundwater& Karst Concerns**	Continue follow up from Waupaca County Baseline Well Inventory Report based on 2017 & 2018 sampling program. Re-sample "hotspot areas" with remaining funds or new DNR funds if approved.	
Lake and Stream Protection. **LWRM CH. 5, Sec F, Pg 89 Lake & Stream Protection**	Install 4 rain gardens through county program. Develop 10 shoreline mitigation plans for zoning permits/violations. Apply for/Implement DNR Healthy Lakes Grant Program on 1-5 sites. Continue coordinating/monitoring Citizen Monitoring efforts on 20 stream sites and 4-8 lakes.	
Start inventory of unused manure storage structures in county per Waupaca CH 51.	Inspect 1-5 structures and offer c/s if they need to be closed.	

- *Forestry*

Encourage forestry, habitat and tree planting. LWRM CH. 5, Sec J, Pg 100 – Forestry & Wildlife	Sell 35,000 trees through County Tree Sale. Promote EQIP forestry practices. Assist RC&D with Forestry Block Grants	*Type and units of practice(s) installed* *Amount of cost-share dollars spent* *# lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)* *# lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)* *# of trees sold*

WAUPACA COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- *Invasive*

Assist landowners with Identification & Elimination of AIS. LWRM CH. 5, Sec F, Pg 89 Lake & Stream Protection. Waupaca County AIS Plan.	Continue Waupaca County AIS Plan activities as applicable. Financially support Golden Sands RC&D as our AIS contractor.	*Number of surveys completed* *Number of control efforts implemented/sites treated*

- *Wildlife*

Administer WDACP (Ag. Damage program & Venison Donation) LWRM CH.5, Sec J, Pg 100 – Forestry & Wildlife	Assist 10 landowners with damage claims or shooting permits. Administer Venison Donation Program.	*# of damage claims assisted* *Lbs of venison to food pantries*

- *Urban*

Urban issues		

- *Watershed*

Watershed Protection. LWRM CH.5 Sec. G, Pg 96 – Establish programs to make additional funds available for NPS abatement.	Apply for and secure Large Scale TRM Grant Funds in a Waupaca County 9 Key Element Planned Watershed. Begin work on a fourth 9 Key Element Watershed Plan	*# Grant secured* *Modeling completed* *Number of partner contacts made* *Information system/tracking developed* *Number of partnership development activities accomplished* *Number of watershed plans completed*

- *Other*

Program Evaluation & Monitoring. LWRM CH.5 Sec. H, Pg 97 – Program Evaluation & Monitoring strategy.	Report to county board Meet with lake districts and associations. Report to DATCP, DNR. File TRM & NOD Grant reports. Coordinate with DNR on Pre/Post project stream sampling.	*Number of meetings attended* *Number of sites sampled* *Number of reports made*
Information & Education. LWRM CH.5 Sec, K, Pg 103 - Information & Education Strategy	Conduct 5th Grade Conservation Field Days. Provide RC&D contracted groundwater education to schools. Yearly department newsletter. Staff speak at FVTC Cow college Host project for annual county board tour	*Number of events hosted or attended*

WAUPACA COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Permits issued or obtained in connection with practices installed. LWRM CH.5, Sec. B, Pg 76- Stormwater Imp. & Sec. E, Pg 86- Permit/Ord. Admin.	Issue 2-5 manure storage permits. Obtain all necessary WRAPP Stormwater Permits for c/s projects. Obtain Cultural Resources Certification.	*# of permits issued / obtained*
Farmland Preservation	Assist current AEA landowners in implementing 5-10 FP agreements in the two current AEA's.	*# of FP agreements signed*
Obtain funding to meet all goals.	Apply for Large Scale TRM Grant Apply for 1 or more NOD Grants Assist NRCS with 5-10 EQIP applications Apply for River Planning Grant	*# of funding sources applied for and received*
Land & Water Resource Management Planning	Continue work on the 2022-2031 Waupaca County LWRM Plan	*Plan approval in 2021*

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	0
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1-10	3
Manure storage closure	1-2	2
Livestock facility siting	N/A	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	N/A	0
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	3-5	4
Shoreland zoning	N/A	0
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	1-3	2
Other		

WAUPACA COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	*35*
For FPP	*30*
For NR 151	*5*
Animal waste ordinance	5
Livestock facility siting	N/A
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	N/A
Nonmetallic mining	N/A

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	4
Field days	4
Trainings/workshops	20
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	5
Newsletters	2
Direct Mailings(25-150 each)	8
News release/story	2

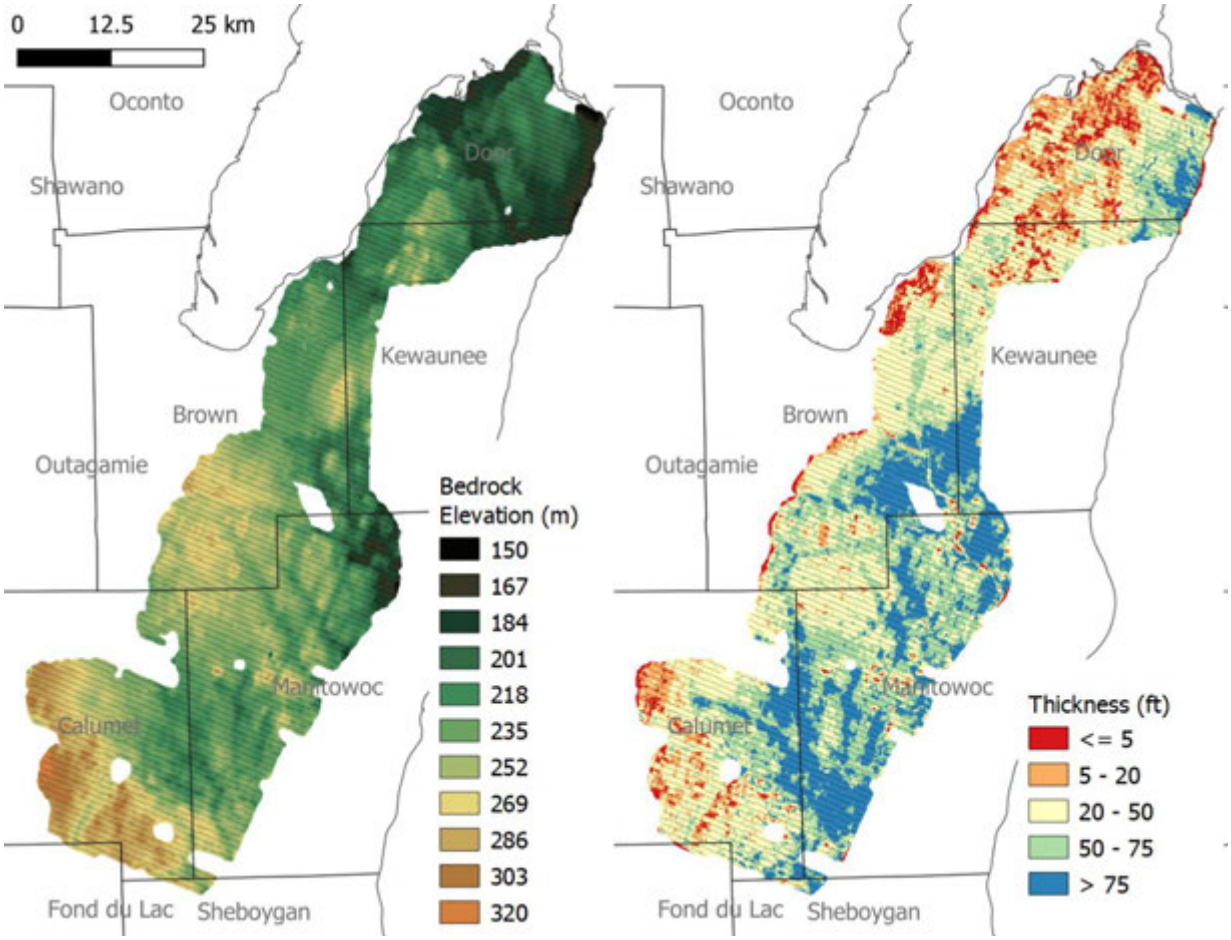
Table 5: Staff Hours and Expected Costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist	2080	*$90,000*
Technicians(3.67)	7640	*$305,000*
Agronomist	2080	*$85,000*
Support Staff	0	*0*
Independent contractor	2080	*$80,000*
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
Bonding	*N/A*	*$100,000*
SEG	*N/A*	*$125,000*
MDV	*N/A*	*$6500*
TRM	*N/A*	*$600,000*
EQIP	*N/A*	*$500,000*

Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey of Karst Bedrock Features in Northeast Wisconsin

2020 Cooperative Grant Update

The AEM project is a collaborative project between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS), and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to utilize the emerging technology of airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys to develop an updated depth to bedrock map for an area of interest in northeastern Wisconsin. The initial goal from this study is to produce an updated depth to bedrock map that will help alleviate the need for private citizens to verify existing, outdated maps. The flights were conducted between February and March 2021, where a contracted helicopter was used to tow instrumentation at ½ mile spacing across the study area. USGS and DATCP worked closely with the contracted company to assist with flight operation, through public communication and outreach, and WGNHS provided the on-the-ground sampling effort to define the control line and verification through the interpretation processes. USGS was responsible for interpretation of the data collected by the airborne instrumentation and worked closely with study partners to define a depth to bedrock map. Depth to bedrock maps will be provided to DATCP and incorporated into the public facing nutrient management software that allows private citizens to make informed management decisions. Attached is the depth to bedrock map produced from the survey results and field verified by WGNHS. Non-shaded areas represent parts of the flight path that were avoided because of populated/urban land use which prevented access. This map is considered preliminary until USGS completes an official data release which is expected in fall of 2021.


0
12.5
25 km
Oconto
Shawano
Door
Kewaunee
Brown
Outagamie
Manitowoc
Calumet
Fond du Lac
Sheboygan
Bedrock Elevation (m)
150
167
184
201
218
235
252
269
286
303
320
Oconto
Shawano
Door
Kewaunee
Brown
Outagamie
Manitowoc
Calumet
Fond du Lac
Sheboygan
Thickness (ft)
<= 5
5 - 20
20 - 50
50 - 75
> 75

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM State of Wisconsin

DATE: **July 23, 2021**

TO: **Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors**

FROM: **Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP**
Bureau of Land and Water Resources Management

SUBJECT: ***2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan*** **for the Soil and Water Resource Management Program and the Nonpoint Source Program**

Recommended Action: This is an informational item. However, if the LWCB wishes to do so, it may vote to "receive" the *2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan.* A vote to "receive" the preliminary allocation plan does not bind the LWCB to any position.

Summary: The *2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan* provides details on how both the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) propose to allocate $23,245,327 in available nonpoint grant funds to county land conservation committees and other project cooperators. This plan does not include DNR award of grants to cities, towns, and villages for projects under ss. 281.65 or 281.66, Wis. Stats.

As part of the allocation process, DATCP prepared an environmental assessment (EA). The EA finds that DATCP's proposed allocation is not a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and concludes that an environmental impact statement is not required.

Breakdown of 2022 Joint Allocation

Charts 1 and 2 on the first page of the Joint Allocation Plan provide an overview of the grant funds DNR and DATCP propose to allocate. Specifically, Chart 1 identifies the proposed DNR and DATCP awards by the program category and the dollar amounts and Chart 2 documents the grants awarded by the state appropriation or other funding source.

A-3 DATCP's allocation awards grants in these program categories: staff and support, landowner cost-sharing, including a reserve to cost-share farm discharges and specific environmental concerns, and project grants including NMFE training. The following tables provide details regarding DATCP grants: Table A (page 2)summarizes county and cooperator awards by program category; Table A-1 (pages 3 and 4) shows the step-by-step process for calculating county staff and support grants; Tables A-2 and(pages 15 and 16) show county scores and rankings in the competition for bond and SEG cost-share grants.

DATCP expenditures proposed for the 2022 allocation vary from the 2021 allocation as follows:

- An increase of $1,590,900 in staffing and support grants. This reflects the increase in funds appropriated as part of the 2021-2023 state budget.
- A reduction of $60,226 in bond cost-sharing. This reflects a decrease in unspent funds from extended projects, resulting in slightly less availability of funds to allocate.
- A decrease of $8,533 in county grants primarily for nutrient management cost-sharing with landowners. The relative similarity to last year's funds reflects the increase in the proportion of these funds available for cropping practices compared to previous years. The change was made to assist counties in helping landowner implement nutrient management plans.
- An increase of $267,882 in SEG innovation grants to counties, to reflect a continued effort to allow counties to pilot innovative ways to use SEG funding to increase land and water conservation activities.
- A decrease in $56,831 in project cooperator grants for education and technical assistance, reflecting the underspending in these grants as a result of vacancies.
- A decrease of $52,518 in grant awards for the NMFE grant recipients. This decrease is due to applicants continuation of having extended funds as a result of 2020 funds being extended into 2021.

DNR provides grants in the following funding categories: Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and NR 243 Notice of Discharge (NOD) programs. No funding requests for grants related to Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water (UNPS) Construction projects were received from the Counties; two requests for UNPS planning grants were received. Table B provides a breakdown of DNR's allocations to counties.

Table C combines the DATCP and DNR allocations to provide a complete picture of the 2022 allocations.

The body of the Joint Allocation Plan provides a detailed discussion regarding DATCP and DNR allocations including future directions for DATCP funding. These are highlights of DATCP's discussion regarding future directions:

- Possible changes in the staffing grant to create incentives to hire conservation professionals whose time is fully dedicated to conservation activities such as nutrient management or conservation engineering. This would discourage counties from assigning conservation staff work in zoning and other non-conservation areas.

- Possible changes in SEG-funded grants to make better use of available funds for nutrient management planning, nutrient management implementation, and soil health practices and programming.

Comment on Preliminary Allocation Plan

The 2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan and DATCP's Environmental Assessment were provided to all county land conservation departments and other interested parties prior to the LWCB's August 3, 2021 meeting.

Counties, project cooperators and other interested persons may comment on the 2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan either by:

- Requesting to appear and present comments before the LWCB at its August 3, 2021 meeting. A Public Appearance Request Card must be submitted before the meeting.
- Emailing written comments by no later than September 7, 2021 to Kim Carlson at

Email: datcpswrm@wisconsin.gov

Materials Provided:

- *2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan*
- *Environmental Assessment*

Presenters: Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein (DATCP), Joanna Griffin (DNR)

2022 JOINT PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION PLAN
Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program and Nonpoint Source Program

The allocations identified in this plan provide counties and others with grant funding for conservation staff and support costs, landowner cost-sharing, and runoff management projects. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are making these allocations to protect Wisconsin's soil and water resources, consistent with the objectives in chs.92 and 281, Wis. Stats.

DATCP is allocating grants to county land conservation committees (counties) and other project cooperators in 2022 through the Soil and Water Resource Management Program (Table A).

DNR is allocating grants to counties through the Targeted Runoff Management (TRM), the NR 243 Notice of Discharge (NOD), and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Planning Projects (UNPS Planning) programs (Table B).

CHART 1: GRANT REQUESTS AND ALLOCATIONS

Funding Category	Total Requests	Unmet Requests	Allocation Amounts
DATCP			
County Staff/Support	$18,366,367	$7,336,367	$11,030,000
LWRM Cost-Share (B)	$7,374,500	$3,934,726	$3,439,774
Bond Reserve (B)	$300,000	$0	$300,000
LWRM Cost-Share (SEG)	$2,846,439	$656,000	$2,190,439
Project Contracts (SEG)	$1,137,055	$251,716	$885,339
Innovation Grants (SEG)	$494,282	$226,400	$267,882
NMFE Grants (SEG)	$206,340	$0	$206,340
SUBTOTAL	$30,724,983	$12,405,209	$18,319,774
DNR			
UNPS Planning	$162,902	$12,500	$150,402
UNPS Construction	NA	NA	NA
TRM	$6,871,526	$3,391,495	$3,480,031
NOD Reserve (B)			$1,295,120
SUBTOTAL	$7,034,428	$3,403,995	$4,925,553
TOTAL			**$23,245,327**

Abbreviations Used Above:
LWRM *= Land & Water Resource Management Plan Implementation*
B *= Bond Revenue*
SEG = *Segregated Revenue*
NA *= Not Applicable or Available*
TRM *= Targeted Runoff Management*
UNPS *= Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management*

For 2022, a total of $23,245,327 is allocated based on the state budget for the 2021-23 biennium. Table C summarizes all allocations, by grantee. Organized by funding category, Chart 1 below summarizes grant fund requests, unmet funding requests, and allocation amounts. Chart 2 below shows the allocation categories by funding sources.

If required, these allocations may be adjusted based on reductions or lapses in appropriations or authorizations.

CHART 2: FUNDING SOURCES

Staff and Support Grants	
$7,314,200	DATCP SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qe)
$3,715,800	DATCP GPR from s. 20.115(7)(c)
$11,030,000	**DATCP Subtotal**
$30,000	DNR SEG from s.20.370(6)(aq)
$150,402.00	DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(dq)
$409,628.00	DNR Sec. 319 Account (Federal)
$590,030.00	**DNR Subtotal**
$11,620,030	**TOTAL Staff & Support Grants**
Cost-Share Grants	
$3,439,774	DATCP Bond from s. 20.866(2)(we)
$300,000	DATCP Bond (Reserve) from s. 20.866(2)(we)
$2,190,439	DATCP SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
$5,930,213	**DATCP Subtotal**
$3,584,250	DNR Bond Revenue from s. 20.866(2)(tf)
$70,000	DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(aq)
$681,273	DNR Sec. 319 Account (Federal)
$4,335,523	**DNR Subtotal**
$10,265,736	**TOTAL Cost-Share Grants**
Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) & Other Project Cooperator (OPC) Grants	
$206,340	DATCP SEG (NMFE) from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
$885,339	DATCP SEG (OPC) from s. 20.115(7)(qf)
$267,882	DATCP SEG (Innovation) from s.20.115(7)(qf)
$1,359,561	**TOTAL NMFE & Other Grants**
$23,245,327	**Grand Total**

Table A: DATCP Allocations

STAFFING AND COST-SHARE ALLOCATIONS

County	DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation	LWRM Plan Implementation		Total DATCP Allocation	County	DATCP Staffing & Support Allocation	LWRM Plan Implementation		Total DATCP Allocation
		Bond Cost-Sharing	SEG Cost-Sharing				Bond Cost-Sharing	SEG Cost-Sharing	
Adams	145,865	41,000	35,000	221,865	Marathon	170,214	75,500	95,000	340,714
Ashland	133,875	49,500	30,000	213,375	Marinette	151,378	63,900	55,000	270,278
Barron	156,884	59,500	10,000	226,384	Marquette	158,282	41,000	75,000	274,282
Bayfield	147,181	49,500	8,000	204,681	Menominee	75,000	20,000	NA	95,000
Brown	170,107	46,000	20,000	236,107	Milwaukee	75,000	20,000	NA	95,000
Buffalo	133,764	57,000	20,000	210,764	Monroe	161,342	48,500	50,000	259,842
Burnett	116,139	33,000	20,000	169,139	Oconto	166,462	46,000	NA	212,462
Calumet	184,528	43,500	30,000	258,028	Oneida	119,325	30,500	NA	149,825
Chippewa	220,971	62,000	75,000	357,971	Outagamie	212,859	49,000	65,000	326,859
Clark	160,678	64,500	75,000	300,178	Ozaukee	180,362	49,500	25,000	254,862
Columbia	147,649	69,368	75,000	292,017	Pepin	125,482	43,400	35,000	203,882
Crawford	133,389	54,500	8,000	195,889	Pierce	169,363	60,500	20,000	249,863
Dane	241,000	53,500	95,000	389,500	Polk	153,904	50,000	NA	203,904
Dodge	170,715	50,500	20,000	241,215	Portage	169,685	57,000	NA	226,685
Door	176,781	49,500	28,000	254,281	Price	106,835	41,000	NA	147,835
Douglas	131,314	25,000	5,000	161,314	Racine	180,352	55,500	90,000	325,852
Dunn	187,783	59,500	20,000	267,283	Richland	121,056	54,500	20,000	195,556
Eau Claire	171,235	50,369	65,000	286,604	Rock	178,065	62,000	75,000	315,065
Florence	75,000	30,500	NA	105,500	Rusk	110,960	38,500	35,000	184,460
Fond du Lac	177,640	40,000	20,000	237,640	Saint Croix	157,636	45,000	35,000	237,636
Forest	115,422	20,000	10,000	145,422	Sauk	172,575	65,500	60,000	298,075
Grant	123,251	64,500	NA	187,751	Sawyer	107,090	28,000	8,000	143,090
Green	159,763	65,500	20,000	245,263	Shawano	146,858	35,000	40,000	221,858
Green Lake	189,757	49,500	30,000	269,257	Sheboygan	154,828	54,500	20,000	229,328
Iowa	149,787	45,000	45,000	239,787	Taylor	138,934	70,368	35,000	244,302
Iron	128,518	45,869	439	174,826	Trempealeau	163,490	70,500	20,000	253,990
Jackson	159,994	65,500	20,000	245,494	Vernon	151,789	59,500	65,000	276,289
Jefferson	183,194	35,000	12,000	230,194	Vilas	137,968	30,500	NA	168,468
Juneau	144,166	38,000	20,000	202,166	Walworth	192,729	52,000	20,000	264,729
Kenosha	144,350	35,500	15,000	194,850	Washburn	126,099	41,000	6,000	173,099
Kewaunee	184,235	46,000	15,000	245,235	Washington	159,290	35,500	10,000	204,790
LaCrosse	182,522	49,500	20,000	252,022	Waukesha	216,719	30,000	NA	246,719
Lafayette	113,499	60,000	20,000	193,499	Waupaca	163,664	60,500	75,000	299,164
Langlade	101,892	30,000	40,000	171,892	Waushara	174,240	41,000	25,000	240,240
Lincoln	84,303	41,000	1,000	126,303	Winnebago	178,912	35,000	75,000	288,912
Manitowoc	188,663	46,000	75,000	309,663	Wood	165,439	54,500	54,000	273,939
					Reserve		300,000		300,000
					Sub-Totals	$11,030,000	$3,739,774	$2,190,439	$16,960,213

PROJECT COOPERATOR ALLOCATIONS

UW-CALS	537,000	Nutrient Management Farmer Education	206,340
WI Land + Water (WLWCA)	230,000	Innovation Grants	267,882
Standard Oversight Council (SOC)	40,000		
Conservation Observation Day	3,500	Sub-Total Cooperator Allocation	$1,359,561
UW-GNHS	37,566		
UW Ext - Cons. Training	22,273		
UW-SFAL	15,000		

PROGRAM ALLOCATION TOTALS				
TOTAL	$11,030,000	$3,739,774	$2,190,439	$18,319,774

Table A-1: Staff and Support Tier 1, Tier 2, Rounds One, Two, Three

County	Tier 1	Tier 2							2022 DATCP Staffing and Support Allocation
	Base Allocation	First Position at 100% (Round 1)	Round 1 Award	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1)	Eligible Round 2 Award	Round 2 Award at 98% of 70%	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1&2)	Round 3 Award No Funds Available	
Adams	75,000	86,475	11,475	86,475	60,262	59,390	145,865	0	145,865
Ashland	75,000	79,982	4,982	79,982	54,684	53,893	133,875	0	133,875
Barron	75,000	92,818	17,818	92,818	65,007	64,066	156,884	0	156,884
Bayfield	75,000	89,261	14,261	89,261	58,771	57,920	147,181	0	147,181
Brown	75,000	105,241	30,241	105,241	65,819	64,866	170,107	0	170,107
Buffalo	75,000	83,782	8,782	83,782	50,716	49,982	133,764	0	133,764
Burnett	75,000	73,762	-	75,000	41,743	41,139	116,139	0	116,139
Calumet	75,000	112,771	37,771	112,771	72,811	71,757	184,528	0	184,528
Chippewa	75,000	136,858	61,858	136,858	85,348	84,113	220,971	0	220,971
Clark	75,000	100,832	25,832	100,832	60,725	59,846	160,678	0	160,678
Columbia	75,000	88,471	13,471	88,471	60,047	59,178	147,649	0	147,649
Crawford	75,000	81,616	6,616	81,616	52,533	51,773	133,389	0	133,389
Dane	75,000	147,069	72,069	147,069	95,310	93,931	241,000	0	241,000
Dodge	75,000	107,726	32,726	107,726	63,914	62,989	170,715	0	170,715
Door	75,000	108,413	33,413	108,413	69,372	68,368	176,781	0	176,781
Douglas	75,000	80,952	5,952	80,952	51,102	50,362	131,314	0	131,314
Dunn	75,000	113,825	38,825	113,825	75,044	73,958	187,783	0	187,783
Eau Claire	75,000	105,962	30,962	105,962	66,232	65,273	171,235	0	171,235
Florence	75,000	55,621	-	75,000	-	-	75,000	0	75,000
Fond du Lac	75,000	110,696	35,696	110,696	67,927	66,944	177,640	0	177,640
Forest	75,000	87,423	12,423	87,423	28,410	27,999	115,422	0	115,422
Grant	75,000	74,972	-	75,000	48,960	48,251	123,251	0	123,251
Green	75,000	107,915	32,915	107,915	52,609	51,848	159,763	0	159,763
Green Lake	75,000	117,821	42,821	117,821	72,992	71,936	189,757	0	189,757
Iowa	75,000	101,811	26,811	101,811	48,681	47,976	149,787	0	149,787
Iron	75,000	76,553	1,553	76,553	52,728	51,965	128,518	0	128,518
Jackson	75,000	98,699	23,699	98,699	62,195	61,295	159,994	0	159,994
Jefferson	75,000	113,213	38,213	113,213	71,009	69,981	183,194	0	183,194
Juneau	75,000	87,282	12,282	87,282	57,719	56,884	144,166	0	144,166
Kenosha	75,000	111,376	36,376	111,376	33,458	32,974	144,350	0	144,350
Kewaunee	75,000	116,712	41,712	116,712	68,515	67,523	184,235	0	184,235
LaCrosse	75,000	113,662	38,662	113,662	69,871	68,860	182,522	0	182,522
Lafayette	75,000	72,006	-	75,000	39,064	38,499	113,499	0	113,499
Langlade	75,000	78,955	3,955	78,955	23,274	22,937	101,892	0	101,892
Lincoln	75,000	72,373	-	75,000	9,440	9,303	84,303	0	84,303
Manitowoc	75,000	115,152	40,152	115,152	74,591	73,511	188,663	0	188,663

Table A-1: Staff and Support Tier 1, Tier 2, Rounds One, Two, Three

County	Tier 1	Tier 2							2022 DATCP Staffing and Support Allocation
	Base Allocation	First Position at 100% (Round 1)	Round 1 Award	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1)	Eligible Round 2 Award	Round 2 Award at 98% of 70%	Adjusted Award (Tier 1 + Round 1&2)	Round 3 Award No Funds Available	
Marathon	75,000	100,795	25,795	100,795	70,438	69,419	170,214	0	170,214
Marinette	75,000	92,055	17,055	92,055	60,194	59,323	151,378	0	151,378
Marquette	75,000	106,641	31,641	106,641	52,399	51,641	158,282	0	158,282
Menominee	75,000		-	75,000	-	-	75,000	0	75,000
Milwaukee	75,000		-	75,000	-	-	75,000	0	75,000
Monroe	75,000	103,004	28,004	103,004	59,195	58,338	161,342	0	161,342
Oconto	75,000	103,760	28,760	103,760	63,623	62,702	166,462	0	166,462
Oneida	75,000	76,073	1,073	76,073	43,887	43,252	119,325	0	119,325
Outagamie	75,000	131,409	56,409	131,409	82,646	81,450	212,859	0	212,859
Ozaukee	75,000	102,842	27,842	102,842	78,658	77,520	180,362	0	180,362
Pepin	75,000	56,534	-	75,000	51,223	50,482	125,482	0	125,482
Pierce	75,000	100,945	25,945	100,945	69,423	68,418	169,363	0	169,363
Polk	75,000	101,115	26,115	101,115	53,564	52,789	153,904	0	153,904
Portage	75,000	109,954	34,954	109,954	60,608	59,731	169,685	0	169,685
Price	75,000	65,244	-	75,000	32,303	31,835	106,835	0	106,835
Racine	75,000	110,771	35,771	110,771	70,603	69,581	180,352	0	180,352
Richland	75,000	77,117	2,117	77,117	44,584	43,939	121,056	0	121,056
Rock	75,000	109,664	34,664	109,664	69,406	68,401	178,065	0	178,065
Rusk	75,000	59,111	-	75,000	36,488	35,960	110,960	0	110,960
Saint Croix	75,000	100,365	25,365	100,365	58,112	57,271	157,636	0	157,636
Sauk	75,000	107,138	32,138	107,138	66,398	65,437	172,575	0	172,575
Sawyer	75,000	66,301	-	75,000	32,562	32,091	107,091	0	107,090
Shawano	75,000	99,003	24,003	99,003	48,558	47,855	146,858	0	146,858
Sheboygan	75,000	96,323	21,323	96,323	59,364	58,505	154,828	0	154,828
Taylor	75,000	92,127	17,127	92,127	47,494	46,807	138,934	0	138,934
Trempealeau	75,000	85,059	10,059	85,059	79,583	78,431	163,490	0	163,490
Vernon	75,000	95,571	20,571	95,571	57,044	56,218	151,789	0	151,789
Vilas	75,000	90,460	15,460	90,460	48,206	47,508	137,968	0	137,968
Walworth	75,000	114,492	39,492	114,492	79,386	78,237	192,729	0	192,729
Washburn	75,000	83,156	8,156	83,156	43,574	42,943	126,099	0	126,099
Washington	75,000	99,764	24,764	99,764	60,400	59,526	159,290	0	159,290
Waukesha	75,000	135,210	60,210	135,210	82,706	81,509	216,719	0	216,719
Waupaca	75,000	96,487	21,487	96,487	68,164	67,177	163,664	0	163,664
Waushara	75,000	111,897	36,897	111,897	63,259	62,343	174,240	0	174,240
Winnebago	75,000	114,863	39,863	114,863	64,990	64,049	178,912	0	178,912
Wood	75,000	109,095	34,095	109,095	57,171	56,344	165,439	0	165,439
Totals	5,400,000	6,812,403	1,641,479	7,041,479	4,047,096	3,988,522	11,030,001	-	11,030,000

Table B: DNR Allocations

County	Targeted Runoff Mgmt. BMP Construction	Local Assistance Funding for Large Scale TRM	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. BMP Construction	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. Planning	Total DNR Preliminary Allocations
Adams	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Ashland	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Barron	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Bayfield	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Brown	$270,000	$108,000	$0	$0	$378,000
Buffalo	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Burnett	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Calumet	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Chippewa	$166,000	$30,000	$0	$0	$196,000
Clark	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Columbia	$225,000	$0	$0	$0	$225,000
Crawford	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Dane	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Dodge	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Door	$220,000	$0	$0	$0	$220,000
Douglas	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Dunn	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Eau Claire	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Florence	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Fond du Lac	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Forest	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Grant	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Green	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Green Lake	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Iowa	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Iron	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Jackson	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Jefferson	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Juneau	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Kenosha	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Kewaunee	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
LaCrosse	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Lafayette	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Langlade	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Lincoln	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Manitowoc	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

Table B: DNR Allocations

County	Targeted Runoff Mgmt. BMP Construction	Local Assistance Funding for Large Scale TRM	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. BMP Construction	Urban NPS & Storm Water Mgmt. Planning	Total DNR Preliminary Allocations
Marathon	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Marinette	$225,000	$0	$0	$0	$225,000
Marquette	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Menominee	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Milwaukee	$0	$0	$0	$84,402	$84,402
Monroe	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Oconto	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Oneida	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Outagamie	$589,000	$130,200	$0	$0	$719,200
Ozaukee	$306,763	$0	$0	$0	$306,763
Pepin	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Pierce	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Polk	$224,550	$0	$0	$0	$224,550
Portage	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Price	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Racine	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Richland	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Rock	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Rusk	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Saint Croix	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Sauk	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Sawyer	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Shawano	$224,803	$0	$0	$0	$224,803
Sheboygan	$0	$0	$0	$66,000	$66,000
Taylor	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Trempealeau	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Vernon	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Vilas	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Walworth	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Washburn	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Washington	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Waukesha	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Waupaca	$589,287	$171,428	$0	$0	$760,715
Waushara	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Winnebago	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Wood	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
DNR NR243 NOD Reserve					$1,295,120
Total	$3,040,403	$439,628	$0	$150,402	$4,925,553

*The reserve amounts for TRM and UNPS Grants are estimated because the grants have not yet been awarded.

Table C: Summary of DATCP and DNR Allocations

COUNTY ALLOCATIONS

County	Staffing & Support from DATCP and DNR	Cost-Sharing from DATCP and DNR	Total Allocation of DATCP and DNR Funding	County	Staffing & Support from DATCP and DNR	Cost-Sharing from DATCP and DNR	Total Allocation of DATCP and DNR Funding
Adams	145,865	76,000	221,865	Marathon	170,214	170,500	340,714
Ashland	133,875	79,500	213,375	Marinette	151,378	343,900	495,278
Barron	156,884	69,500	226,384	Marquette	158,282	116,000	274,282
Bayfield	147,181	57,500	204,681	Menominee	75,000	20,000	95,000
Brown	278,107	336,000	614,107	Milwaukee	159,402	20,000	179,402
Buffalo	133,764	77,000	210,764	Monroe	161,342	98,500	259,842
Burnett	116,139	53,000	169,139	Oconto	166,462	46,000	212,462
Calumet	184,528	73,500	258,028	Oneida	119,325	30,500	149,825
Chippewa	250,971	303,000	553,971	Outagamie	343,059	703,000	1,046,059
Clark	160,678	139,500	300,178	Ozaukee	180,362	381,263	561,625
Columbia	147,649	369,368	517,017	Pepin	125,482	78,400	203,882
Crawford	133,389	62,500	195,889	Pierce	169,363	80,500	249,863
Dane	241,000	148,500	389,500	Polk	153,904	274,550	428,454
Dodge	170,715	70,500	241,215	Portage	169,685	57,000	226,685
Door	176,781	297,500	474,281	Price	106,835	41,000	147,835
Douglas	131,314	30,000	161,314	Racine	180,352	145,500	325,852
Dunn	187,783	79,500	267,283	Richland	121,056	74,500	195,556
Eau Claire	171,235	115,369	286,604	Rock	178,065	137,000	315,065
Florence	75,000	30,500	105,500	Rusk	110,960	73,500	184,460
Fond du Lac	177,640	60,000	237,640	Saint Croix	157,636	80,000	237,636
Forest	115,422	30,000	145,422	Sauk	172,575	125,500	298,075
Grant	123,251	64,500	187,751	Sawyer	107,090	36,000	143,090
Green	159,763	85,500	245,263	Shawano	146,858	299,803	446,661
Green Lake	189,757	79,500	269,257	Sheboygan	220,828	74,500	295,328
Iowa	149,787	90,000	239,787	Taylor	138,934	105,368	244,302
Iron	128,518	46,308	174,826	Trempealeau	163,490	90,500	253,990
Jackson	159,994	85,500	245,494	Vernon	151,789	124,500	276,289
Jefferson	183,194	47,000	230,194	Vilas	137,968	30,500	168,468
Juneau	144,166	58,000	202,166	Walworth	192,729	72,000	264,729
Kenosha	144,350	50,500	194,850	Washburn	126,099	47,000	173,099
Kewaunee	184,235	61,000	245,235	Washington	159,290	45,500	204,790
LaCrosse	182,522	69,500	252,022	Waukesha	216,719	30,000	246,719
Lafayette	113,499	80,000	193,499	Waupaca	335,092	724,787	1,059,879
Langlade	101,892	70,000	171,892	Waushara	174,240	66,000	240,240
Lincoln	84,303	42,000	126,303	Winnebago	178,912	110,000	288,912
Manitowoc	188,663	121,000	309,663	Wood	165,439	108,500	273,939
Marathon	170,214	170,500	340,714	DATCP NR243 Res.		300,000	300,000
Marinette	151,378	343,900	495,278	DNR NR243 Res.		1,295,120	1,295,120
Marquette	158,282	116,000	274,282	Sub-Totals	11,620,030	$10,265,736	$21,885,766
Menominee	75,000	20,000	95,000				
Milwaukee	159,402	20,000	179,402				
Monroe	161,342	98,500	259,842				

PROJECT COOPERATOR ALLOCATIONS

UW-CALS	537,000	Nutrient Management Farmer Education	206,340
WI Land + Water (WLWCA)	230,000	Innovation Grants	267,882
Standard Oversight Council (SOC)	40,000		
Conservation Observation Day	3,500	Sub-Total Cooperator Allocation	$1,359,561
UW-GNHS	37,566		
UW Ext - Cons. Training	22,273		
UW-SFAL	15,000		

PROGRAM ALLOCATION TOTALS	11,620,030	10,265,736	23,245,327

DATCP ALLOCATIONS

1. Staff and Support

The allocation under this category provides county staff and support funding. Grants awards are consistent with the terms of the 2022 grant application and instructions located at:
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SWRMSect6.aspx

A. Funds Available

The allocation amount listed on page one consists of annual appropriations of $3,715,800 in GPR funds and $7,314,200 in SEG funds "for support of local land conservation personnel under the soil and water resource management program." DATCP has no underspending from prior years to increase this allocation.

B. Grant Awards

Grants are awarded using the following formula:

Tier 1

DATCP is exercising its discretion under s. ATCP 50.32(5) to award each county a $75,000 base grant.

Tier 2

DATCP will allocate the remaining $5,630,000 using a modified version of the formula designed to meet the goal in s. 92.14(6)(b), Wis. Stats., of funding 100, 70 and 50 percent of the costs of three staff positions in each county. As modified, the formula allows counties to claim department heads, technicians and engineers as their first positions (entitled to 100 percent funding) only if they work over 95% on eligible conservation activities.

DATCP makes Tier 2 awards in three rounds in an attempt to meet the statutory goal. For round one, DATCP can fully fund county requests for their first position at the 100% rate. Due to an increase in the allocation for the 2021-2023 budget cycle for round two DATCP can fund about 98.5% of the county requests for their second position at the 70% rate. DATCP has no funding to make awards in round three to fund a county's third position at the 50% rate. Table A-1 (pages 3 and 4) provides round-by-round details of the Tier 2 allocation for each county.

Unmet Need for Staff and Support Funds

Despite an increase in appropriations, DATCP would need an additional $2.7 million in appropriations to reach the goal in s. 92.14(6)(b), Wis. Stats. Even with increases in funding, counties are anticipated to shoulder a significant part of the burden paying staff. For example, in 2020, counties provided funding to pay 207 of the 370 conservation staff employed statewide.

Reallocation and Redirection

DATCP approves Menominee County's request to reallocate up to $8,000 to the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin on the condition that county provides a report on the use of the reallocated funds.

Future Funding Directions

DATCP awards grants for a county's first position only if the staff is actively engaged in qualified conservation activities. Also, DATCP requires annual work planning and reporting in order to qualify for DATCP funding. These requirements build county conservation capacity and better account for the performance of conservation activities using state funds. If sufficient additional staffing funding is made available in the future to fully fund the statutory goal in s. 92.14 (6)(b), DATCP may consider further adjustments to the grant formula to advance the goals of capacity building and accountability without compromising the basic funding for county staff.

In the future, DATCP could ensure that counties maintain adequate conservation delivery capacity by requiring that a county's

second or third position be engaged in providing high level conservation support as a technician with conservation engineering practitioner certification or as a planner qualified to write nutrient management plans. Also, DATCP could preclude a county from claiming a department head as its second or third position if the county has listed a department head in its first position. To reward county performance, the staffing grant formula could be modified to provide additional payments for counties that are making reasonable progress in implementing their annual work plans or with track records of spending high levels of cost-sharing. If adjustments to the staffing formula are made in the future, DATCP will proceed with caution and only after input from counties, mindful of the challenges, even with increases in the appropriation.

2. Bond Revenue Cost-Sharing

The allocations under this category provide cost-sharing to resolve discharges on farms (awarded to counties from a reserve), and provide counties grants for landowner cost-sharing. Unless otherwise noted below, grants awards are consistent with the terms of the 2022 grant application and instructions (see page 8 for the link to these documents).

A. Bond Funds Available

The allocation amount listed on page one consists of $3.5 million (half of DATCP's $7.0 million authorization in the 2021-23 budget), with the following adjustment:

- Increase the amount by $239,774 using unspent bond funds previously allocated.

B. Grant Awards

Bond Reserve Projects

DATCP will allocate $300,000 to an engineering reserve primarily for the purpose of funding projects to address discharges on farms including regulatory animal waste response (NR 243) projects in cooperation with DNR. Some funds may be used for priority projects related to extreme weather events or other non-runoff related projects. These projects are usually quite expensive and funds are awarded first come, first serve using a separate process that includes completing a form for engineering reserve projects and projects over $50,000 and obtaining a recommendation from DATCP engineering staff.

Landowner Cost-Sharing

DATCP will allocate $3,439,774 in bonds to counties for landowner cost-sharing. DATCP makes county awards by first providing base funding, and then awarding funds based on criteria related to county performance and need. This approach is designed to better meet the statewide priorities set in s. ATCP 50.30(2), including the need to address farms with water quality issues and support farmer participation in the farmland preservation program (FPP).

After providing each county $10,000 in base funding, DATCP awards the remaining $2,719,774 using two performance-based criteria (a 3-year record of cumulative spending of cost-share funds, and a 3-year average of underspending of cost-share funds) and one needs-based criteria (farmland acres based on 2017 USDA Ag Census data). Minor manual adjustments are then made to the allocation, if needed.

Table A-2 shows each county's total award amount and the factors that contributed to the county's award.

Unmet Need for Bond Cost-Share Funds

DATCP's allocation provided 47% of the bond funds requested, leaving $3,934,726 in unsatisfied county requests. A chronic shortfall in bond funds has practical implications for our capacity to implement state and local priorities including farm runoff standards. Of particular concern, cost-share dollars are not keeping pace with increased costs for conservation practices and expanded priorities reflected in new NR 151 targeted performance standards.

Future Funding Directions

In response to the impact of unusual weather events during 2018 and 2019, the SWRM program managers determined the best way to ensure future allocations are not unfairly effected is to eliminate the inclusion of extended underspending in the bond award calculations for grant cycles for 2021, 2022, 2023. After this three year period, the matter will be reassessed.

3. SEG Fund Allocation

The allocations under this category provide funding for (1) landowner cost-sharing for soft practices including nutrient management (NM), (2) farmer and related training involving NM, (3) NM implementation support and other projects of statewide importance and 4) Innovation projects. Unless otherwise noted below, grants awards are consistent with the terms of the 2022 grant application and instructions (see page 8 for the link to these documents).

A. Funds Available

The allocation amount listed on page one consists of $4,675,000 appropriation in SEG funds “for cost−sharing grants and contracts under the soil and water resource management program under s. 92.14” with the following adjustments:

- A decrease of $1,000,000 as a result of a redirection of funds for producer-led watershed protection grants.
- A reserve of $125,000 will be kept while DATCP investigates the opportunity to update grant-related technologies. If we are unable to move forward with the technology updates, these funds will be allocated as cost-share funds to existing grantees, or to completely fund innovative grants or other project cooperator grant requests which were not funded completely at this time.

Of the $3,675,000 available for allocation, $2,190,439 will be provided to counties for landowner cost-sharing, $206,340 will be awarded for farmer NM training, $267,882 will be given to counties for innovation grants and $885,339 will be awarded to project cooperators for training and support services. The majority of funding awarded in this category directly benefits farmers and other landowners by providing NM cost-sharing and farmer training.

Landowner Cost-Sharing

DATCP provides grants to counties primarily for cost-sharing NM plans at $10 per acre for four years, the flat rate that covers the costs to meet the 2015 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 590 Standard. Some of these funds may be used to cost-share (a) cover crops and other cropping practices to implement a NM plan, and (b) for “hard practices” with DATCP approval if the county’s grant contract authorizes such use.

Sixty-one counties applied for $2,846,439 in grants, and DATCP will award $2,190,439 to applicants based on ranking determined by the following scoring criteria:

- Up to 20 points based on acres covered by Farmland Preservation Zoning and Agriculture Enterprise Areas.
- Up to 20 points based on the extent of impaired waters located in each county.
- Up to 30 points based on percent of acres in a county with NM plans (percentage of cropland covered by nutrient management plans updated by producers, landowners, and certified crop advisors and submitted to county land conservation offices).
- Up to 30 points based on a county’s total three-year positive spending on NM cost-sharing for the previous year.

DATCP relies on data in its possession to score county applications based on the four funding criteria. Counties are ranked according to their cumulative score (up to 100 points) and are organized into five groups for allocation purposes. Counties receive the highest maximum award for their grouping, unless a county requests a lower amount. The five award groups are as follows:

Group 1 (100 points)
Maximum Award: $95,000
Maximum awards in the group: 2 of 2

Group 2 (75-99 points)
Maximum Award: $75,000
Maximum awards in group: 7 of 14

Group 3 (50-74 points)
Maximum Award: $65,000
Maximum awards in group: 5 of 24

Group 4 (25-49 points)
Maximum Award: $35,000
Maximum awards in group: 5 of 15

Group 5 (less than 24 points)
Maximum Award: $15,000
Maximum awards in group: 1 of 6

Funds were then manually adjusted in a few cases to provide additional SEG funding to counties who requested larger allocations and have demonstrated an ability to spend it. In no case did the award exceed a county's request or the maximum of $95,000. Table A-3 enumerates each county's score, grouping, and grant award. The term "N/A" identifies the twelve counties that did not apply for funds. Table A (page 2) also reflects amounts allocated to each county under the "SEG Cost-Sharing" column. Counties who are able to attest to having 75 percent or more cropland covered by nutrient management plans may request to spend up to 50% of 2022 SEG funds on bondable practices in support of nutrient management plan implementation.

NMFE Training Grants

For 2022, DATCP fully funded all requests, in the amounts listed in Table A-4.

All grant recipients must sign a contract with DATCP that incorporates the requirements of s. ATCP 50.35 and commits the project to developing NM plans that meet the 2015 NRCS 590 standards.

Table A-4: NMFE Grant Awards

Organization	Total Award
Buffalo Co.	$17,600
Columbia Co	$15,100
Douglas Co.	$1,220
Kewaunee Co.	$21,800
Manitowoc Co.	$15,400
Marquette Co.	$21,000
NWTC	$15,370
Ozaukee Co	$2,500
SWTC	$20,000
Taylor (Mrthn, Clrk, Lcln,Wd)	$32,850
Trempealeau Co./ WTC	$20,000
Vernon Co. / WTC	$22,000
Washington Co.	$1,500
Total	**$206,340**

Statewide Projects: Nutrient Management Implementation Support, Cooperators

In addition to supporting NMFE training, DATCP uses its SEG appropriation for projects that contribute to statewide conservation goals, meeting the following grant priorities in s. ATCP 50.30(3): fund cost−effective activities that address and resolve high priority problems; build a systematic and comprehensive approach to soil erosion and water quality problems; contribute to a coordinated soil and water resource management program and avoid duplication of effort. DATCP has targeted the following areas for funding: nutrient management implementation activities including SnapPlus, support for statewide training of conservation professionals, development of technical standards, and coordinated activities in AEAs and impaired waters. Four of the awards also include funds to purchase laptops for training.

In the cooperator subcategory of Nutrient Management Implementation Support, DATCP received an application from the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences UW-CALS for $580,000 and a second application for $23,155. DATCP will fund the UW-CALS request as follows: (1)

$257,000 for maintaining and improving education and training (2) $280,000 for SNAP Plus maintenance and development. The education and training request was reduced from the requested amount due to known underspending as a result of position vacancies. The development of the A2809 calculator will not be funded during this grant cycle.

Funding UW CALS / Nutrient and Pest Management Program supports the development of a digital, self-paced, interactive, interview-based NM planning workbook with an updated NM curriculum. The workbook will be obtained online or on a thumb drive, but will also be available as a printed document. The UW CALS project will also include the continued development of training videos to be linked into the interactive workbook and the SnapPlus NM software program.

In the general category of project cooperator, DATCP will provide the following funding:

- Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WI Land+Water) is awarded $230,000. The funds are intended to build statewide capacity to deliver and coordinate conservation training including implementation of recommendations of the statewide interagency training committee (SITCOM) and the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants Annual Workshop. Funding also supports activities to promote accountability among county conservation programs.

- The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) is awarded the full $40,000 requested which fairly recognizes the higher costs for maintaining statewide capacity to develop and maintain technical standards for conservation programs and the specific support for DATCP standards.

- Up to $3,500 is awarded to the host county for costs related to Conservation Observance Day.

DATCP received four other applications for cooperator funds:

- USGS – Airborne Electromagnetic Survey, Phase 2. Request: $150,000. Award: $0**.** While an excellent project, this project was not funded due to limited funds availability and this not having a regulatory requirement. Additionally, this project recently receive funding from an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant.
- UW-Extension – Natural Resource Educators. Request: $22,273. Award: $22,273**.** This award will provide regional support to the producer-led watershed groups.
- UW-GNHS – Depth to Bedrock Mapping. Request: $37,566, Award: $37,566**.** This project is required in order to house verifications of depth to bedrock.
- UW-SFAL – Transition of Lab Services. Request: $49,420. Award: $15,000. This project will support the NM soil certification program.

Innovation Grants

With the 2022 SWRM grant application, counties were invited to submit Innovation Grant requests for new ways to approach land and water conservation. Seventeen applications were received from counties and total of $494,282 SEG funds were requested. A total of $267,882 is awarded as follows:

Innovation Grant	Amount
Buffalo County LCRMD	$50,000
Dane County LWRD	$20,000
Eau Claire LCD	$3,000
Fond du Lac LWCD	$35,000
Iowa County LCD	$22,500
Manitowoc SWCD	$17,500
Marathon County CPZ	$50,000
Ozaukee County LWMD	$25,000
Polk County LWR	$8,000
Vernon County LWCD	$11,882
Waupaca County LWCD	$25,000
TOTAL AWARDED	$267,882

Projects were scored by five raters on a 20 point scale that considered alignment with the program goals, a logical plan, the proposed budget and previous funding. Three Innovation Grant proposals are fully funded based on the level of innovation: Buffalo County, Iowa County, Marathon County, and Vernon County. These projects are not only innovative but also could provide models for other counties and programs moving forward. Two requests were for less than $5,000, and therefore were fully funded: Eau Claire County and Manitowoc County Interseeding. Six further applications were partially funded due to scoring lower in the rankings and the competition for funding. We attempt to assure funding levels were adequate to still be valid for the project. These projects are located in: Dane County, Fond du Lac County, Manitowoc County, Ozaukee County, Polk County, and Waupaca County.

DATCP received proposals for five Innovation grant projects which it decided not to fund via the SEG innovation program. DATCP will not fund the Chippewa County ($50,000) or Racine County ($25,000) nutrient management planning innovation requests, however we did increase the SEG cost-share awards for these counties as they have shown to be good stewards of the SEG grant awards, working to increase NMP in their counties. DATCP will not be funding the Iron County Kaari Watershed Restoration through the SEG Innovation Grants, but will be working with the County for a solution through various funding methods. Manitowoc County began a project last year to repair and replace damage drainage tiles in an effort to decrease sediment from these sources into waterways. Again, due to the increase in applicants, and the fact that funding is available via the bond cost-share allocation to address tile repair, DATCP will not fund this project through the Innovation Grants this year. Finally, DATCP will not fund the Rusk County request for a drone. While the project is intriguing, this grant program does not currently allow funding for equipment.

The 2022 cooperator awards are documented in the lower section of Table A (page 2). All award recipients are required to sign grant contracts that incorporate the requirements of s. ATCP 50.35, and include significant accountability measures.

Unmet Need for Cost-Share Funding

DATCP will provide about 77% of the SEG funding requested by counties for cost-sharing, which is $656,000 less than the requested amounts. While additional cost-share funding could have been allocated, the average total spent by counties annually over the past several year is significantly less than what was allocated. The department hopes that the additional flexibility provided in spending the funds will increase the amount of cost-sharing spent by counties.

Future Funding Directions

DATCP continues to consider how it can best utilize its SEG funding to improve conservation and implement conservation practices. DATCP has consistently fallen short of meeting the demand for cost-sharing bondable practices, and diversion of SEG dollars may help fill the gap. DATCP has permitted this on a minor level to the few counties with over 75% of cropland acres in NM plans (using a former calculation of the acres covered by NM plans); however, the department may want to open this up to all or a larger number of counties.

There are other emerging areas or practices where SEG funds could be used or targeted to implement conservation practices and improve soil health and watershed management, including things like harvestable buffers, small grains projects, cropping practices that improve climate resiliency, precision agriculture, and carbon credit processing.

To the extent that DATCP will spend SEG funding to support nutrient management (NM) planning and implementation, DATCP will use feedback from counties and other stakeholders to determine which, if any, of the following strategies are possible and could be used:

- Change to a two-year grant award with two one-year allocations awarded at the same time, allowing for greater flexibility to counties for planning.
- Allow cost-sharing for cropping practices for farms without a NM plan, but with a farm assessment.
- Set a maximum allocation from the SEG fund dedicated to NMFE annually.
- Create a soil health program that includes targeted funding specifically for soil health practices.
- Create Soil Health outreach module, to be taught alongside or in addition to the Nutrient Management Planning modules.
- Create a mentorship program to facilitate learning and better understanding of Nutrient Management between producers and their plan writers.
- Set aside funds to support SWRM program technology. With an aging database paired with ever-changing program needs, DATCP is seeking technological support and solutions more frequently. Funding a modern database system would also allow DATCP to track and target its funding more effectively, and potentially allow for tracking of the impacts of the program across the state.

Regarding the allocation of SEG funds specifically for nutrient management cost-sharing, DATCP remains interested in refining the formula for awarding county cost-sharing and the policies surrounding its use. For example, DATCP needs to respond to concerns about the criterion related to nutrient management plan coverage in a county. The criteria needs to better capture NM plan coverage in a county to reflect acres under plans, not just the percentage of land in a county under NM plans.

Before making major changes to what is funded and how it is distributed, DATCP will engage key stakeholders to develop a workable approach. The counties and producer led groups can share insights on approaches to effectively target cost-sharing and increase farmer participation.

Table A-2: County Bond Cost-Share Awards

County	Bond				County	Bond			
	18-20 Cumulative Average Under-Spending*	2017 Census Acres**	18-20 Cumulative Total Dollars Spent***	Award		18-20 Cumulative Average Under-Spending*	2017 Census Acres**	18-20 Cumulative Total Dollars Spent***	Award
Adams	0%	117,206	$134,190	$41,000	Marathon	0%	473,147	$255,420	$75,500
Ashland	0%	52,428	$164,017	$49,500	Marinette	0%	133,068	$384,913	$63,900
Barron	0%	305,604	$150,211	$59,500	Marquette	0%	113,183	$106,868	$41,000
Bayfield	0%	81,041	$199,129	$49,500	Menominee	1%	290	$50,575	$20,000
Brown	0%	192,007	$139,571	$46,000	*Milwaukee*	0%	6,990	$7,092	$20,000
Buffalo	2%	293,130	$190,463	$57,000	Monroe	1%	300,659	$132,450	$48,500
Burnett	2%	89,237	$55,460	$33,000	Oconto	0%	189,898	$141,604	$46,000
Calumet	1%	153,858	$119,876	$43,500	Oneida	0%	34,670	$88,239	$30,500
Chippewa	1%	356,176	$188,741	$62,000	Outagamie	9%	236,963	$184,190	$49,000
Clark	0%	451,035	$191,784	$64,500	Ozaukee	0%	59,299	$170,063	$49,500
Columbia	0%	304,058	$163,530	$69,368	Pepin	0%	106,881	$96,762	$43,400
Crawford	0%	210,550	$162,484	$54,500	Pierce	0%	233,188	$213,541	$60,500
Dane	1%	506,688	$133,751	$53,500	Polk	0%	256,114	$161,167	$50,000
Dodge	0%	405,992	$68,817	$50,500	Portage	2%	280,410	$153,507	$57,000
Door	0%	114,508	$153,479	$49,500	Price	0%	89,203	$136,273	$41,000
Douglas	32%	69,759	$22,455	$25,000	Racine	0%	127,496	$227,769	$55,500
Dunn	0%	348,301	$153,975	$59,500	Richland	0%	220,843	$163,549	$54,500
Eau Claire	0%	172,256	$99,289	$50,369	Rock	1%	353,505	$156,509	$62,000
Florence	0%	18,609	$96,350	$30,500	Rusk	1%	136,062	$102,110	$38,500
Fond du Lac	3%	317,371	$118,632	$40,000	Saint Croix	0%	279,191	$82,534	$45,000
Forest	42%	38,084	$21,305	$20,000	Sauk	0%	298,906	$200,885	$65,500
Grant	0%	600,324	$151,332	$64,500	Sawyer	2%	46,009	$78,514	$28,000
Green	0%	292,368	$202,553	$65,500	Shawano	5%	247,241	$95,567	$35,000
Green Lake	0%	126,751	$171,438	$49,500	Sheboygan	0%	195,938	$151,980	$54,500
Iowa	0%	360,134	$125,053	$45,000	Taylor	0%	225,856	$221,496	$70,368
Iron	0%	9,200	$141,437	$45,869	Trempealeau	0%	329,916	$277,350	$70,500
Jackson	0%	248,342	$363,565	$65,500	Vernon	0%	337,086	$192,974	$59,500
Jefferson	9%	221,355	$93,271	$35,000	Vilas	0%	5,652	$69,047	$30,500
Juneau	2%	175,417	$74,678	$38,000	Walworth	2%	192,422	$174,797	$52,000
Kenosha	6%	77,782	$135,403	$35,500	Washburn	0%	73,773	$139,175	$41,000
Kewaunee	0%	170,405	$149,089	$46,000	Washington	0%	126,146	$54,597	$35,500
LaCrosse	0%	144,334	$168,980	$49,500	Waukesha	7%	97,460	$78,032	$30,000
Lafayette	0%	342,518	$175,907	$60,000	Waupaca	0%	201,603	$221,592	$60,500
Langlade	7%	116,386	$93,099	$30,000	*Waushara*	0%	135,306	$120,493	$41,000
Lincoln	0%	78,293	$107,899	$41,000	Winnebago	6%	162,052	$84,723	$35,000
Manitowoc	0%	231,609	$136,996	$46,000	Wood	0%	220,891	$160,025	$54,500
					TOTAL				$3,439,774

Each County was given a base of $10,000 to help counties receive closer to their requested amount. The following criteria were also applied to finalize a county's BOND award.

***Graduated awards based on 3-yr avg underspending, excluding extended underspending, year 2 of 3: 0% = $10,250, 1.0-4.99% = $8,000, 5-10% =$5,000, >10% = $0.**

****Graduated awards based on 2017 Census acres: 350,000 or more=$25,000; 250,000-349,999=$20,000; 150,000-249,999=$15,000, 50,000-149,999=$10,000, <50,000=$5,000.**

*****Graduated awards based on 3-yr cumulative spending: $250K+ = $30,000, $200K-249,999=$25,000, $150K-$199,999 = $19,000, $100K-$149,999 = $10,500, <$100,000 = $5,000**

County Name in Italics = County transferred funds awarded in prior grant year

County Name Shaded: County awarded the amount of its request, which was less than the maximum grant award.

Table A-3: County SEG Cost-Share Awards

County	Ranking and Award			County	Ranking and Award		
	Score	Grouping	Award		Score	Grouping	Award
Adams	35	4	$35,000	Marathon	100	1	$95,000
Ashland	45	4	$30,000	Marinette	60	3	$55,000
Barron	70	3	$10,000	Marquette	80	2	$75,000
Bayfield	45	4	$8,000	Menominee	0	0	NA
Brown	70	3	$20,000	Milwaukee	0	0	NA
Buffalo	50	3	$20,000	Monroe	65	3	$50,000
Burnett	35	4	$20,000	Oconto	0	0	NA
Calumet	75	2	$30,000	Oneida	0	0	NA
Chippewa	60	3	$75,000	*Outagamie*	60	3	$65,000
Clark	90	2	$75,000	*Ozaukee*	75	2	$25,000
Columbia	95	2	$75,000	Pepin	40	4	$35,000
Crawford	30	4	$8,000	Pierce	45	4	$20,000
Dane	100	1	$95,000	Polk	0	0	NA
Dodge	75	2	$20,000	Portage	0	0	NA
Door	70	3	$28,000	Price	0	0	NA
Douglas	10	5	$5,000	Racine	50	3	$90,000
Dunn	55	3	$20,000	Richland	45	4	$20,000
Eau Claire	65	3	$65,000	Rock	95	2	$75,000
Florence	0	0	NA	Rusk	40	4	$35,000
Fond du Lac	90	2	$20,000	Saint Croix	40	4	$35,000
Forest	5	5	$10,000	*Sauk*	80	2	$60,000
Grant	0	0	NA	Sawyer	10	5	$8,000
Green	60	3	$20,000	*Shawano*	65	3	$40,000
Green Lake	80	2	$30,000	Sheboygan	75	2	$20,000
Iowa	65	3	$45,000	Taylor	45	4	$35,000
Iron	5	5	$439	*Trempealeau*	60	3	$20,000
Jackson	25	4	$20,000	Vernon	70	3	$65,000
Jefferson	65	3	$12,000	Vilas	0	0	NA
Juneau	35	4	$20,000	*Walworth*	65	3	$20,000
Kenosha	15	5	$15,000	Washburn	5	5	$6,000
Kewaunee	70	3	$15,000	Washington	55	3	$10,000
La Crosse	70	3	$20,000	Waukesha	0	0	NA
Lafayette	60	3	$20,000	Waupaca	90	2	$75,000
Langlade	70	3	$40,000	Waushara	35	4	$25,000
Lincoln	25	4	$1,000	Winnebago	75	2	$75,000
Manitowoc	95	2	$75,000	Wood	65	3	$54,000
TOTAL							$2,190,439

County Name in Italics = County transferred funds awarded in prior grant year
NA= County did not apply for SEG funds

County NameShaded = County awarded the amount of its request, which was less than the maximum grant award

DNR ALLOCATIONS

DNR's portion of this preliminary allocation provides funding to counties through three programs:

1) Targeted Runoff Management (TRM),
2) Notice of Discharge (NOD), and
3) Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Planning (UNPS-Planning).

Table B shows the preliminary allocation to each county grantee for TRM and UNPS-Planning. Additionally, NOD reserves are established as specific county allocations are unknown at this time.

FUNDING SOURCES

Allocations for TRM projects and NOD projects are from bond revenue appropriated under s. 20.866(2)(tf), Wis. Stats., Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 funds, and segregated funds appropriated under s. 20.370(6)(aq), Wis. Stats.

Allocations to counties for UNPS-Construction projects, when requested, are from segregated funds appropriated under s. 20.866(2)(th), Wis. Stats.

Allocations to counties for UNPS-Planning projects, when requested, are from segregated funds appropriated under s. 20.370(6)(dq), Wis. Stats.

Note: DNR will also provide TRM grants and UNPS-Planning grants to non-county grantees. Wisconsin Statutes do not require that non-county grantees be listed in this allocation plan.

- For all grant programs, funds will be considered "committed" when a grantee has returned to the DNR a signed copy of the grant agreement.
- For the TRM program, grant agreements not signed by the deadline may be rescinded by DNR, and the associated grant funds may be used to fund other eligible projects in rank order based on project scores. If, for any reason, funds committed through this allocation plan become available after March 31, 2022, these funds may be held to fund projects selected in the next grant cycle.

1. TRM Preliminary Allocation

The DNR allocates up to $3,480,031 to counties for cost sharing of TRM projects during calendar year 2022.This amount is adequate to fully fund the estimated state share for 9 out of 17 eligible county Small-Scale TRM applications. Additionally, this amount is adequate to fully fund of the estimated state share for 4 out of the 9 eligible county Large-Scale TRM applications. As shown in Chart 1, there is $3,391,495 of unmet needs for county TRM projects. DNR's final recommendation for 2022 TRM project allocations will be discussed with the LWCB at their October 2021 meeting. The exact amount allocated to successful county TRM applicants will be included in the ***2022 Joint Final Allocation Plan***.

The maximum cost-share amount that can be awarded for a single Small-Scale TRM project is $225,000. The maximum cost-share amount that can be awarded for a single Large-Scale TRM project is $600,000.

TRM allocations made through this plan will be reimbursed to grantees during calendar years 2022 through 2023 for Small-Scale projects and through 2024 for Large-Scale projects. Project applications are screened, scored, and ranked in accordance with s. 281.65(4c), Wis. Stats. Adjustments to grant amounts may occur to account for eligibility of project components, cost-share rates, or ch. NR 151 enforcement action at the time that DNR negotiates the actual grant agreement with an applicant.

2. UNPS Preliminary Allocation

CONSTRUCTION. UNPS-Construction grant applications were not solicited in 2021 for the 2022 award cycle. DNR has implemented an alternating schedule for both UNPS-Planning and UNPS-Construction grants. The UNPS-

Construction grant application will be available in early 2022 for 2023 awards.

PLANNING. The DNR allocates up to $150,402 to counties for cost sharing of UNPS projects during calendar year 2022. This amount is adequate to fully fund the estimated state share for two of the three eligible county UNPS Planning grant applications. DNR's final recommendation for 2022 UNPS project allocations will be discussed with the LWCB at their October 2021 meeting. The exact amount allocated to successful county UNPS applicants will be included in the ***2022 Joint Final Allocation Plan***.

The maximum cost-share amount that can be awarded for a UNPS-Planning grant is $85,000.

The DNR will also provide UNPS-Planning grants to non-county applicants. Wisconsin Statutes do not require that non-county grantees be listed in this allocation plan.

The UNPS-Planning awards made through this plan will be reimbursed to grantees during calendar years 2022 and 2023. Project applications have been screened, scored, and ranked in accordance with s. 281.66, Wis. Stats.

3. Notice of Discharge Program

A. Background

DNR issues notices of discharge (NOD) and notices of intent (NOI) under ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code; this code regulates animal feeding operations. DNR has authority under s. 281.65(4e), Wis. Stats., to provide grant assistance for NOD and NOI projects outside the competitive TRM process. DNR is authorized to award grants to governmental units, which in turn enter into cost-share agreements with landowners that have received an NOD or NOI.

Cost-share assistance is provided to landowners to meet the regulatory requirements of an NOD issued under ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. In some cases, cost-share assistance must be offered before enforcement action can be taken. In other cases, DNR is not required to provide cost sharing but may do so at its discretion. DNR has several permitting and enforcement options available under ch. NR 243 if landowners should fail to meet the conditions of the NOD.

B. NOD Preliminary Allocation

This Preliminary Allocation Plan establishes a reserve of $1,295,120 for NOD projects during calendar year 2022. The reserve includes funds for structural practices in eligible locations. DNR may use its discretion to increase this reserve if needed. To receive a grant award, a governmental unit must submit an application to DNR that describes a specific project and includes documentation that an NOD or NOI has either already been issued or will be issued by DNR concurrent with the grant award. Once DNR issues a grant to the governmental unit to address an NOD or NOI, DNR will designate a portion of the reserve specifically for that project.

Since DATCP also administers funds to correct NODs, DNR and DATCP will consult on each NOD application to ensure that the two agencies are making the most efficient use of the available funds to address these problem sites.

DNR will require that county grantees commit funds to a cost-share agreement with the landowner within a timeframe that is consistent with the compliance schedule in the NOD. The county grantee shall use the grant award to reimburse the landowner for costs incurred during the grant period, which may extend beyond calendar year 2022. If the landowner fails to install practices listed in the cost-share agreement within the timeframe identified, DNR will terminate its grant with the county, leaving the landowner to correct the problems identified in the NOD without the benefit of state cost sharing.

Fund balances from terminated NOD grants and projects completed under budget may be

returned to the reserve account and made available to other NOD applicants. Reserve funds remaining at the end of calendar year 2022 may either be carried over for the calendar year 2023 NOD reserve account or may be allocated for calendar year 2022 or 2023 TRM projects.

DNR and DATCP issue a joint report annually to the LWCB on progress in administering NOD funds.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE *2022 JOINT PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION PLAN*

This section will be completed to account for any changes in the proposed allocation plan based on comments received, LWCB input, and other factors identified by DATCP or DNR.

Counties, project cooperators, and other interested persons may comment on the 2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan either by:

- Requesting to appear and present comments before the LWCB at a regularly scheduled meeting (A Public Appearance Request Card must be completed before the start of meeting).
- Emailing written comments by no later than September 7, 2021 to: Kim Carlson at datcpswrm@wisconsin.gov.

FINAL ACTION

DATCP has determined that the action described in this allocation plan for the 2022 soil and water resource management grant program shown in Table A conforms to the applicable DATCP provisions of s. 92.14, Wis. Stats, and ATCP 50, Wis. Administrative Code. DATCP reserves the right to reallocate grant funds unexpended by recipients.

Dated this ____day of _____, 2021

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

_____
Randy Romanski, Secretary-designee

DNR has determined that the actions described in this allocation plan for the 2022 allocations of DNR funds shown in Table B conforms with the provisions of ss. 281.65 and 281.66, Wis. Stats.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2021

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

_____
Preston D. Cole, Secretary

Environmental Assessment
DATCP's Portion of the *2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan*
July 2021

I. The Nature and Purpose of the Proposed Action

Each year the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), together with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), allocates grant funds to counties and others for the purpose of supporting county conservation staff, landowner cost-sharing and other soil and water resource management (SWRM) activities. DATCP funds are allocated in accordance with ch. 92, Stats., and ch. ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties are required to have DATCP-approved land and water resource management (LWRM) plans as an eligibility condition for grants. The details of DATCP's proposed action are set forth in charts and tables in the 2022 Joint Allocation Plan that accompanies this Environmental Assessment.

II. The Environment Affected by the Proposed Action

As further explained in Section III.A., the DATCP grant program operates in every county, potentially covering all of Wisconsin's 34.8 million acres. While the program can fund a range of activities that protect surface and ground waters throughout the state, grant funds are primarily used to protect rural areas and install conservation practices on farms, which now account for less than 40% of Wisconsin's land base (14.3 million acres). Ultimately each county's LWRM plan determines the nature and scope of conservation activities in the area and the natural resources impacted by DATCP funds.

III. Foreseeable Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

A. Immediate Effects

The environmental effects of the proposed allocation plan are positive. Through support for conservation staff and landowner cost-sharing, the proposed allocation plan will result in actions on farms and other areas that reduce soil erosion, prevent farm runoff, improve management of manure and other nutrients, and minimize pollution of surface and ground water.

For the 2021-2023 biennium, the annual funding for conservation staff and other conservation cooperators has been increased to $11,030,000 for 2022 and $11,280,000 for 2023, allowing DATCP to secure statewide capacity to deliver a wide range of conservation and water quality programs. DATCP staffing grants enable counties to hire and retain conservation staff who have the experience and technical skills required to implement county resource management plans, including the state agricultural performance standards; facilitate landowner participation in state and federal cost-share programs; and ensure cross-compliance of farmers in the farmland preservation program (FPP). By funding special projects that support conservation implementation, DATCP is filling critical needs in areas such as technical standards development, nutrient management support, training, and coordination between the public and private sector. As discussed later, funding for county conservation staff has not kept up with the demand which is fueled by new programs such as

producer-led watershed councils and phosphorus and nitrate management, and the persistence of intractable ground and surface water issues throughout the state.

Each year, counties use cost-share funds to address state and local priorities identified in their local plans. Work plan and reporting requirements discussed later will provide a clearer picture of county efforts and facilitate reporting of county accomplishments.

Cost-share funds translate into tangible conservation practices that produce documentable results in controlling runoff pollution and improving water quality. In 2019 and 2020, counties spent about $5.4 million in DATCP funds to install cost-shared practices. Table A highlights the top conservation practices DATCP cost-share spent by counties in 2019 and 2020.

Table A: Cost-Share Expenditure Comparison

Conservation Practice	2019 Cost-Share Dollars Spent (in millions)	2019 Units of Practice Installed	2020 Cost-Share Dollars Spent (in millions)	2020 Units of Practice Installed
Nutrient Management Plans	2.2	57,525 acres	1.3	34,664 acres
Waterway Systems	0.50	412 acres	0.65	216 acres
Manure Storage	0.15	7 systems	0.21	7 systems
Barnyard Runoff Control	0.22	6 systems	0.09	6 systems
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	0.45	27,839 feet	0.64	34,837 feet
Grade Stabilization	0.36	48 structures	0.29	41 structures
Closure of Manure Storage System	0.23	34 closed	0.39	51 closed
Cover and Green Manure	0.03	1,543 acres	0.06	1,964 acres

The following developments are worth mentioning with respect to expenditures of cost-share funds in 2020 compared to 2019 expenditures:

- An increase in n acres cost-shared for cover crops
- A significant increase in number of manure storage closures
- A decrease in NM plans cost-shared

B. Long-Term Effects

Over time, DATCP's annual financial support of county staff and other project cooperators has built and sustained a statewide conservation infrastructure that delivers the following reinforcing benefits:

- Outreach and education that results in positive behavioral changes;
- Development of conservation technologies such as SNAP Plus and the Manure Advisory System, and the training systems to effectively use these technologies;
- Technical and engineering assistance that ensures proper design and installation of conservation practices;
- Resource management planning that addresses local and state priorities, with an emphasis on annual work planning and reporting;

- Permitting and other regulation of livestock farms that requires properly designed manure storage and nutrient management plans;
- Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) administration that protects valuable resources and promotes conservation compliance;
- Producer-Led watershed administration and technical assistance.

DATCP cost-share grants are critical in helping landowners meet their individual needs and essential to overall efforts to make progress in achieving broader water quality goals. Most farmers are not required to meet state runoff control standards without cost-sharing. Long-term state commitment to farmer cost-sharing determines the extent to which conservation practices are installed, and ultimately the degree to which water quality is improved. When multiple conservation practices are installed in a watershed or other area over time, the combined effect of these practices can result in marked water quality improvements.

Fully assessing the long-term benefits, however, is complicated for a number of reasons including the fact that DATCP's grant program operates within a collection of conservation and natural resource programs. See Section III.E. for more a detailed discussion.

C. Direct Effects

DATCP cost-share grants result in the installation of conservation practices and capital improvements on rural and agricultural lands for the purpose of protecting water quality and improving soil health. Grants to counties and others also secure access to technical or other assistance that supports conservation efforts, including conservation education and nutrient management planning.

D. Indirect Effects

Installed conservation practices not only improve resources in the immediate area, but benefit surrounding areas, including resources located downstream from the installed practice. For example, nutrient management and cropping practices implemented on fields upstream from a lake reduce sediment and nutrients that would otherwise be deposited in surface waters, and can provide additional protection for groundwater. Installed practices may have secondary benefits at a site, such as shoreline buffers, which not only serve to control runoff and impede erosion, but may increase wildlife habitat.

DATCP policies and rules mitigate secondary impacts from the installation and maintenance of conservation practices. DATCP policies ensure that counties evaluate cultural resource impacts of a project before any land-disturbing activities are initiated. To minimize erosion from excavation and construction projects, such as a manure storage facility or barnyard runoff control system, DATCP rules require landowners to implement measures to manage sediment runoff from construction sites involving DATCP cost-shared practices. Adverse environmental impacts may result from improper design and installation of practices. DATCP rules avoid this outcome by requiring the design and construction of cost-shared projects according to established technical standards. Improper maintenance can undermine the benefits of a long-term conservation practice. By requiring that

landowners maintain conservation projects installed with DATCP cost-share dollars, DATCP ensures that practices perform in the long-term as intended.

In rare cases, certain negative impacts are unavoidable. For example, unusual storm events can cause manure runoff from the best-designed barnyard. Unavoidable impacts may also arise if a cost-shared practice is not maintained or is improperly abandoned. Manure storage facilities that are not properly abandoned or emptied may present a water quality threat, unless they are closed in accordance with technical standards.

Overall, the positive benefits of reducing nonpoint runoff through conservation measures significantly outweigh the slight risks associated with the installation and maintenance of conservation practices.

E. Cumulative Effects

While it is difficult to accurately gauge the cumulative effects of this action, it is clear that SWRM grant funds play an integral part in supporting a comprehensive framework of federal, state, and local resource management programs. With the increase to the staffing allocation for the 2021-2023 biennium, DATCP is able to lend support for 207 of the 370 conservation employees in the state's 72 counties, enabling DATCP grant funds to secure the foundation necessary to deliver a myriad of conservation programs, which among other accomplishments, achieved the following:

In 2020, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided $64 million for conservation programs including $31 million in Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) payments to install conservation practices with the top four expenditures related to cover crops ($6.3 million), woody residue treatment ($2.5 million), waste storage facility ($2.1 million), pond sealing or lining ($1.8 million), and roofs and covers ($1.4 million).

The conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP) protects important soil and water resources while allowing landowners to make use of valuable adjacent agricultural lands. As of the beginning of 2021, about 70,070 acres were enrolled under CREP agreements and easements: with 7,161 acres under CREP easements and the remainder under CREP 15-year agreements. Of those enrollments 40,475 acres are currently under active agreements. The conservation benefits of the practices installed on the active agreements (e.g. riparian buffers and filter strips) are as follows: 793 miles of streams buffered with an estimated phosphorus annual removal of 87,980 pounds, nitrogen annual removal of 47,339 pounds and sediment removal of 43,771 tons.

DNR continued annual funding in 2021 for Targeted Runoff Management Projects, providing over $5 million to counties for cost-sharing fourteen small scale and seven large scale projects. DNR set aside $1.5 million for farms issued a notice of discharge. DNR continued annual funding in 2021 for Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Construction Projects, providing over $68 thousand to counties for cost-sharing two projects.

Table B: DNR Funding 2021		
Program	Count of Projects	Sum of Total Amount Awarded
Large-scale TRM	7	$2,628,620
Small-scale TRM	14	$2,451,110
Urban Storm Water Construction	2	$68,250

Through the Producer-Led Watershed Protection grant program, DATCP has offered support to twenty-three producer-led groups around the State, awarding over $2.4 million since the program's inception in 2016.

Assessing the full extent of the effects of grant funding is complicated by a number of factors including complex interactions and far-reaching impacts of grant funding. For example, conservation activities funded by DATCP can dampen the potential negative environmental impacts of actions driven by farm policies and economics. In particular, the risks of cropland soil erosion have increased as a result of conditions that favor increased cash grain/row cropping, and the increased market incentives to grow these crops. In addition, efforts funded through SWRM grants have helped mitigate flooding impacts which have been prevalent in recent years.

IV. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Affected by the Activity

A. Those Directly Affected

County Conservation Programs and Cooperators: The proposed allocation plan provides funding to support 72 county conservation programs. The increase to the staffing grant allocation for the 2021-2023 biennium will enable DATCP to completely support one employee per program, and up to 98% of the second position (funded at 70%). The increase to the staffing grant funding will currently expire after the 2021-2023 biennium, which, if not renewed, would lead to a decrease of close to $500,000 in available funds for staffing. And even with the increase, the DATCP awards fall short of funding three staff per county at the prescribed rates in s. 92.14(6)(b), Stats, providing 82% of the costs to support county conservation staff. DATCP grants are one of several sources for cost-share funds that include county levies, DNR grants and NRCS funding. DATCP grants also fund private and public entities to provide statewide support for implementing conservation programs or provide special services to promote conservation statewide. DATCP funding for training and professional development is critical to maintaining county capacity to deliver high quality technical services, and reflects a state commitment to build the capacity of conservation staff statewide. With the 2021 Allocation DATCP introduced Innovation Grants to encourage counties to reach out in new ways to landowners, building from the success of the Monroe County AEA pilot project in 2020.

Landowners who are direct beneficiaries: Farmers and other landowners rely on many services, such as technical assistance provided by conservation staff funded with DATCP grants. They also benefit from cost-share dollars to install conservation practices. Long-term use of some conservation practices, such as nutrient management planning, may have a positive impact on the finances of a

landowner by helping plan needed purchases to maximize the yield of a field while minimizing additional fertilizers and pesticides required.

Other county residents: County residents benefit from resource management planning, permitting and other services provided by county conservation staff funded through DATCP grants. Through information and education efforts, for example, a county can help non-farm residents better manage lawn fertilizers, encourage diversity in lawns, improve backyard wildlife habitat, control invasive species and minimize construction site erosion.

Farm-related businesses: Farm supply organizations, nutrient management planners, soil testing laboratories, agricultural engineers, and construction contractors benefit from state grants to counties. Landowners who receive cost-sharing purchase goods and services from these entities.

B. Those Significantly Affected

The allocation benefits those landowners whose soil and water resources are improved or protected as a consequence of the activities funded by DATCP. The benefits may include protection of drinking water and improving soil health. Landowners with properties located "downstream" of lands with nutrient and sediment delivery runoff problems also benefit from conservation practices that reduced these problems. Certain measures, such as nutrient management plans and protective cropping practices, can help protect drinking water wells that serve neighboring landowners and communities. The general public benefits from conservation practices that protect water resources, and promote natural resources.

V. Significant Economic and Social Effects of the Proposed Action

On balance, DATCP's proposed action will have positive economic and social effects. DATCP grants support cost-sharing and technical assistance that enable farmers and other landowners to meet their conservation responsibilities and maintain eligibility for state and federal program benefits. By providing financial support to meet state runoff standards for farms, DATCP cost-sharing helps farmers with the cost of compliance.

The economic impacts of installing conservation practices vary with each individual farmer and the type of practices involved. To receive cost-sharing, farmers usually pay 30% of the costs (10% in the case of economic hardship) to install a practice. Non-agricultural practices are capped at 50% cost-share. DATCP's efforts to expand its cost-share reserve offers limited options to install more costly practices.

In addition to incurring costs, landowners also must adjust their management routines to meet government cost-share requirements. With these changes, farmers face new risks including potential for reduced productivity and reduced profits. Farmers implementing these practices, however, may also see long-term benefits including savings on the cost of fertilizer, improving soil health leading to more productive soils, and reduced liability for environmental problems.

From the standpoint of local economies, grant funds will generate demand for the purchase of goods and services to design, install and maintain conservation practices. The farm-related businesses listed in IV.A. will directly profit from this increased demand.

Socially, DATCP allocations provide needed support for the farming community and others as they take an active role in the protection and preservation of natural and agricultural resources. Through the increased adoption of conservation measures, farmers and other landowners can ensure continued acceptance by rural communities as responsible and conscientious neighbors. Improved water quality both enhances recreational opportunities and protects the scenic rural landscape, both of which are features essential to tourism.

VI. Controversial Issues Associated with the Proposed Action

For the 2021-2023 biennium, SWRM grants program will benefit from funding increases in key areas. DATCP's annual appropriation for staffing grants was raised closer to the statutory goal than it has been since 2001. DATCP awarded $11.03 million in staffing grants, an increase of approximately $1.63 million. However in 2022, DATCP will still fall $2.4 million short of meeting the statutory goal of funding an average of three county staff at the rate of 100, 70 and 50 percent. As noted below, increased county staff may be a key element in making important gains in conservation practice implementation. It may be necessary to look at alternative ways to pay for field staff to support farmers with management intensive practices such as nutrient management.

Funding for nutrient management (NM) grants and related expenditures decreased from a program high in 2018-2019, and focus is shifting towards implementing nutrient management plans by initiating cropping practices such as cover crops and no-till planting. DATCP has a responsibility to consider how best to spend this funding to promote NM implementation. Counties have had adequate funds to meet their needs for cost-sharing. A narrow focus on NM cost-sharing overlooks other opportunities that may be more effective in promoting NM. There has also been increased interest in farmer training. Counties have expressed interest in having access to resources other than cost-sharing to further implementation, informing the idea which became the Innovation Grant opportunity in 2021. Innovation grant applications have been solicited from counties for 2022, with requests for harvestable buffers and other practices which can be used to implement the recommendations of nutrient management plans. Alterative cropping projects are also a feature, again, looking for ways to incorporate the nutrient management plans' recommendations.

While understandable from the standpoint of concerns about increased debt service, the decision to retain the same funding for bond cost-sharing fails to meet current program needs. While the $7.0 million authorization for bond cost-sharing has not increased since 2002, landowner costs for practices have increased for number of reasons:

- A significant jump in costs of material for construction of engineered practices in the last 5-10 years (e.g. a 60 percent increase in both excavation costs to $3.50 per cubic yard and concrete costs to $125 per cubic yard).
- Greater conservation responsibilities requiring farmers to install more conservation practices. For example, DNR adopted new performance standards in 2011 and 2018 and DATCP tightened manure spreading restrictions.

The unmet needs for cost-sharing engineered practices may call for creative solutions including the expanded use of SEG funds to pay for these practices. Increases in conservation spending are much needed and long overdue; however, the main source of funding for these conservation activities is inadequate to support more spending. A better supported and more sustainable source of funding is necessary to tackle our conservation challenges.

VII. Possible Alternatives to the Proposed Action

A. Take No Action

Taking no action on the proposed allocations is inconsistent with legal requirements. DATCP and DNR are statutorily mandated to provide grant assistance for their respective programs through an annual allocation as long as the state appropriates the necessary funds.

B. Delay Action

DATCP is under legal obligation to make an annual allocation within a specific timetable. Furthermore, there is no financial justification for a delay since the funding is available. Delaying the grant allocation runs the risk of hampering counties in meeting their legal responsibilities, including their contractual responsibilities to landowners, and undermines the significant environmental, economic, and social benefits of the program.

C. Decrease the Level of Activity

Decreasing the allocations would reduce environmental benefits, impede local program delivery, is not warranted based on the available funding for DATCP programs and would be inconsistent with legislative intent to implement the nonpoint pollution control program. Therefore, this is an undesirable choice.

D. Increase the Level of Activity

Available appropriations and authorizations determine the overall level of activity. However, subject to the factors discussed in E. below, DATCP may increase the allocation in a given project category to better target spending to achieve desired conservation benefits and further legislative objectives.

E. Change the Amounts Allocated to Some or All Recipients

The awards made in the allocation plan are based on specific grant criteria that reflect a weighing and balancing of competing priorities and demands. The allocation plan is intended to implement ch. ATCP 50 and legislative directives regarding allocation of grant funds. It also reflects the input and consensus of the counties on funding issues. Changes in individual awards cannot be made without upsetting the weighing and balancing used to develop the overall allocation plan, and would unfairly deviate from grant criteria announced as part of the grant application.

VIII. Mitigation of Adverse Environmental Effects

Overall, the allocations are anticipated to have positive environmental effects. Any adverse environmental effects will be of a secondary and minor nature, and can be mitigated. DATCP minimizes adverse impacts through construction runoff control requirements, outreach and training, and improvements in the technical standards.

IX. Final Determination

This assessment finds that the *2022 Preliminary Allocation Plan* will have no significant negative environmental impact and is not a major state action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. No environmental impact statement is necessary under s. 1.11(2), Stats.

Date_____ By_____
Susan Mockert
Land and Water Resources Bureau
Agricultural Resource Management Division

The decision indicating that this document is in compliance with s. 1.11, Stats., is not final until certified by the Administrator of the Agricultural Resource Management Division.

Date_____ By_____
Sara Walling, Administrator
Agricultural Resource Management Division

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: July 16, 2021

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) and Advisors

FROM: Joanna Griffin
Watershed Management Bureau, DNR

SUBJECT: **DNR Proposed Scoring and Ranking of Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Applications for Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Funding**

Recommended Action: This is an informational item.

Summary: Through this memo, the DNR is informing the LWCB of Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management (UNPS) grant application scores for projects to be considered for CY 2022 grant funding. Scoring results for projects being considered for calendar year (CY) 2022 funding are presented in the attached table.

The DNR funds UNPS projects under the authority of s. 281.66, Wis. Stats. The purpose of this program is to control polluted runoff from urban project areas. Funds may be used for two types of projects: 1. Construction projects (may also include land acquisition) and 2. Planning projects. Each project type has its own application process and funding source. Consequently, construction projects and planning projects do not compete against each other for funding.

Beginning in January 2016, the DNR began implementing an alternating schedule for UNPS Planning and UNPS Construction grants. UNPS Planning grant applications were solicited in 2021 for the CY 2022 award cycle. The UNPS Construction grant application will be available in 2022 for CY 2023 awards. Due to the alternating schedule for the UNPS grants, only the scoring and ranking summary for UNPS Planning projects is provided here.

Current Scoring and Ranking Summary for UNPS – Planning Projects:

The maximum state cost share per successful application is $85,000.

- Thirty-seven (37) applications were submitted; all are eligible for funding.
- Grant requests for the 37 applications total $1,727,700.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate $924,256 to fund the CY 2022 UNPS Planning projects. This will fully fund fourteen (14) of the thirty-seven (37) projects.

The attached table shows the current ranked order of applications. However, a requirement in s. NR 155.20(2)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, states that no one applicant may receive multiple grants that exceed 20% of the total available funding. Applicants on the ranked list whose total funding requests exceed 20% of the total available funding may be awarded funds for the projects that do not exceed 20%; the balance of the applicant's requests are moved to the bottom of the ranked list. Additional funding is provided to those projects moved to the bottom of the ranked list only after all other eligible projects have been funded. Therefore, adjustments to the rank order may be made once total available funding is determined.

Once the *2022 Joint Final Allocation Plan* is signed, the DNR will develop grant agreements for successful applications. During the grant agreement development process, funding amounts may be adjusted as necessary to reflect final cost-share rates and eligible project components.

Materials Provided: *UNPS-Planning Scoring and Rank for CY 2022*

UNPS-Planning Grant Application Scoring by Rank for 2022

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Total Eligible Project Cost	State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested
1	Wauwatosa City	City of Wauwatosa Citywide Storm Water Management Plan	SER	132.1	$182,680	$57,680	$57,680
2	Sheboygan County	Stormwater Quality Management Plan Update	SER	118.9	$132,000	$66,000	$123,680
3	Milwaukee City	Road Salt Reduction Education	SER	113.6	$87,591	$31,650	$155,330
4	Watertown, City	Stormwater Program and TMDL Updates	SCR	112.4	$147,597	$70,000	$225,330
5	Cedarburg Town	Stormwater Quality Management Plan Update	SER	112	$109,500	$54,750	$280,080
6	Village of Jackson	Cedar Creek/Hickory Lane Streambank Stabilization & Stormwater Management Plan	SER	112	$75,384	$30,153	$310,233
7	Milwaukee County	Milwaukee County Outfall Basin Delineation & TMDL WinSLAMM Modeling	SER	109.6	$168,805	$84,402	$394,635
8	Manitowoc, City	Stormwater Quality Management Plan Update	NER	107.6	$176,000	$85,000	$479,635
9	Village of Bellevue	Village of Bellevue- TMDL Implementation Planning Grant	NER	107	$80,000	$32,000	$511,635
10	Fitchburg City	Fitchburg TMDL Stormwater Planning	SCR	105.1	$195,920	$85,000	$596,635
11	Menasha, City	TMDL Planning	NER	104.8	$172,950	$85,000	$681,635
12	Kenosha, City	City of Kenosha UNPS Water Quality Improvement Plan	SER	104.1	$157,222	$72,871	$754,506
13	Menomonee Falls	Village of Menomonee Falls Water Quality Master Plan and MS4 Permit Compliance Activities	SER	104	$282,785	$85,000	$839,506
14	Sheboygan Falls, City	Stormwater Quality Management Plan Update	SER	104	$169,500	$84,750	$924,256
15	Milwaukee City	City of Milwaukee Storm Water Management Plan Update	SER	103.8	$1,173,900	$85,000	$1,009,256
16	Port Washington City	Stormwater Management Plan Update	SER	103.55	$128,892	$64,446	$1,073,702
17	Menomonie, City	2022 Addendum to City of Menomonie Urban Stormwater Plan	WCR	100.8	$53,903	$26,903	$1,100,605
18	Town of Sheboygan	Stormwater Quality Management Plan Update	SER	97.2	$98,000	$30,000	$1,130,605
19	City of Rice Lake	City of Rice Lake TMDL Implementation Plan Update: Feasibility Study for TMDL/Phosphorus Compliance Ponds	NOR	95	$38,000	$15,000	$1,145,605
20	West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	Rain to Rivers of Western Wisconsin: Stormwater Training Series & Media Outreach Campaign	WCR	95	$46,718	$18,000	$1,163,605

UNPS-Planning Grant Application Scoring by Rank for 2022

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Total Eligible Project Cost	State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested
21	Grafton Village	Developing and Early Warning System - Streamlining Regional Pollution Detection Strategies	SER	93.9	$131,889	$60,000	$1,223,605
22	Bayside Village	TMDL Stormwater Management Plan Update	SER	92.2	$49,100	$24,550	$1,248,155
23	Beaver Dam, City	Beaver Dam Stormwater Quality Planning	SCR	91	$52,200	$20,880	$1,269,035
24	City of Waupun	Waupun Stormwater Quality Planning	SCR	89	$48,200	$24,100	$1,293,135
25	City of Pewaukee	Storm Water Management Plan Update	SER	87	$274,200	$75,250	$1,368,385
26	Oregon, Village	Village of Oregon Storm Water Quality Master Plan	SCR	85	$125,816	$43,113	$1,411,498
27	Wilson, Town	Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan	SER	82.3	$91,680	$45,840	$1,457,338
28	Columbus, City	City of Columbus Water Quality Master Plan	SCR	81	$131,578	$50,832	$1,508,170
29	Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District	NEW Water Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan	NER	81	$30,000	$15,000	$1,523,170
30	Village of Plover	Plover TMDL Stormwater Planning	WCR	78.4	$178,110	$85,000	$1,608,170
31	Village of Mount Pleasant	Pike River Chloride Management Plan	SER	78	$100,000	$50,000	$1,658,170
32	City of Racine	Racine Stormwater Planning	SER	74.6	$84,260	$42,130	$1,700,300
33	Calumet County	Calumet County Planning Update	NER	73.8	$25,000	$12,500	$1,712,800
34	Village of De Soto	De Soto Stormwater Discharge Phosphorus Reduction	WCR	62	$10,500	$5,250	$1,718,050
35	Village of Stoddard	Stoddard Stormwater Discharge Phosphorus Reduction	WCR	60	$6,800	$3,400	$1,721,450
36	Union Grove Village	Union Grove Stormwater Study	SER	56	$8,000	$4,000	$1,725,450
37	City of Rhinelander	Rhinelander-Storm Water Ordinance Update	NOR	28	$4,500	$2,250	$1,727,700

Black font = proposed to be fully funded
Red font = funding not available

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 2021

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) and Advisors

FROM: Joanna Griffin
Watershed Management Bureau, DNR

SUBJECT: **DNR Proposed Scoring and Ranking of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Applications for Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Funding**

Recommended Action: This is an informational item.

Summary: The DNR, pursuant to s. 281.65(4c)(b), Wis. Stats., is informing the LWCB of the Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant application scores for projects to be considered for CY 2022 grant funding. Scoring results for projects being considered for calendar year (CY) 2022 funding are presented in the attached tables.

Chapter NR 153, Wis. Adm. Code, governs the TRM Grant Program, became effective on January 1, 2011, and includes four separate TRM project categories as noted below. Projects are scored and ranked against other projects in the same category. Once total available funding is determined, funds are allocated among the four project categories. The maximum possible awards are $225,000 for Small-Scale projects and $600,000 for Large-Scale projects.

Scoring and Ranking Summary to Date:

A. Small-Scale Non-TMDL

- Six (6) applications were submitted and are eligible for grant consideration.
- Funding requests for the applications total $1,204,613.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate $591,513 to fully fund three (3) of the six (6) projects in this category.

B. Small-Scale Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- Fourteen (14) applications were submitted and are eligible for grant consideration.
- Funding requests for the applications total $2,447,513.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate $1,340,318 to fully fund seven (7) of the fourteen (14) projects in this category.

In these categories of Small-Scale Non-TMDL and Small-Scale TMDL, adjustments were made once the total available funding was determined. The attached tables show the preliminary rank order of applications. A requirement in s. NR 153.20(2)(d)3.b., Wis. Adm. Code, states that no one applicant may receive multiple grants that exceed 20% of the total available funding in a given project category. Applicants on the ranked list whose total funding requests exceed 20% of the total available funding will be awarded funds for the projects that do not exceed 20% and the balance of the applicant's requests will be moved to the bottom of the ranked list; additional funding is provided only after all other eligible projects have first been funded.

C. Large-Scale Non-TMDL

- Three (3) applications were submitted and are eligible for consideration.
- Funding request for these applications total $809,550.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate $196,000 to fully fund one (1) of the three (3) projects in this category.

D. Large-Scale TMDL

- Six (6) applications were submitted and are eligible for consideration.
- Funding request for these applications total $3,078,850.
- Based on available funding, the Department proposes to allocate $1,577,200 to fully fund three (3) of the six (6) projects in this category.

The following process was used to score and rank projects and make funding decisions:

1. All projects were scored and then ranked by score for each project category.
2. For Small-Scale TMDL and Small-Scale Non-TMDL applications only, the highest scoring application from each DNR region that is above the median score in each of the two project categories was identified and moved ("region boost") to the top of the ranked list.

The Department will include final allocations to counties for TRM projects in the *CY 2022 Joint Final Allocation Plan*. Once the *2022 Joint Final Allocation Plan* is signed, DNR will develop grant agreements for successful applications. During the grant agreement development process, funding amounts may be adjusted as necessary to reflect final cost-share rates and eligible project components.

Materials Provided:

CY 2022 Small-Scale Non-TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank
CY 2022 Small-Scale TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank
CY 2022 Large-Scale Non-TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank
CY 2022 Large-Scale TMDL TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank

TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank for 2022

Table 1. Small-Scale Non-TMDL Project Applications

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Region Boost	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested
1	Door County*	East Tributary to the Ahnapee River Groundwater Protection	NER	119.4	Yes	$405,992	$220,000	$220,000
2	Marinette County	Drees Farm Feed Leachate Management	NER	100	No	$777,495	$225,000	$445,000
3	Ozaukee County	Gasser Farm 313 Storage	SER	86.9	No	$209,304	$146,513	$591,513
4	Dunn County	Val-O-Mo Manure Storage Replacement	WCR	84.2	No	$506,527	$225,000	$816,513
5	Trempealeau County	Lundberg/Giese Manure Pit	WCR	72.6	No	$233,000	$163,100	$979,613
6	Marinette County	Zeitler Farm Manure Management	NER	97.9	No	$417,661	$225,000	$1,204,613

*Region Boost with score equal to or greater than median of 92.4
Black font = proposed to be fully funded
Red font = funding not available

TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank for 2022

Table 2. Small-Scale TMDL Project Applications

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Region Boost	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested
1	Greenfield, City*	Honey Creek Headwaters Streambank Stabilization	SER	138.5	Yes	$751,407	$225,000	$225,000
2	Columbia County*	Ballweg Manure Management System	SCR	130	Yes	$469,887	$225,000	$450,000
3	Polk County *	Creekside Dairy Manure Storage System	NOR	128.7	Yes	$249,500	$224,550	$674,550
4	Outagamie County*	Doug Barclay	NER	123.4	Yes	$172,441	$120,000	$794,550
5	Ozaukee County	Eskra 313 Waste Storage with roof provides phosphorous runoff savings	SER	128.7	No	$320,500	$160,250	$954,800
6	Waupaca County	Moen Farm	NER	123.1	No	$328,000	$160,715	$1,115,515
7	Shawano County	Christianson Ag Waste	NER	120	No	$337,933	$224,803	$1,340,318
8	North Lake Management District	Mason Creek Watershed Plan Implementation - Schmidt Property	SER	119	No	$322,013	$219,000	$1,559,318
9	Burnett County	North West Passages Gulley Erosion Control	NOR	112.5	No	$14,405	$10,084	$1,569,402
10	Jackson, Village	Cedar Creek/Hickory Lane Streambank Stabilization & Stormwater Management Plan	SER	103.8	No	$321,725	$225,000	$1,794,402
11	Adams County	Wisconsin River TRM Grant 2022	WCR	96	No	$240,556	$168,389	$1,962,791
12	Rusk County	Justin Hamholm Feedlot & VTA	NOR	93.5	No	$80,750	$56,525	$2,019,316
13	Outagamie County	Reese Farms	NER	123.2	No	$641,540	$225,000	$2,244,316
14	Ozaukee County	Sandy Loam Farm Waste Transfer & Storage (Hamm)	SER	121.6	No	$290,282	$203,197	$2,447,513

*Region Boost with score equal to or greater than median of 122.35.

Black font = proposed to be fully funded

Red font = funding not available

TRM Scoring by Project Category & Rank for 2022

Table 3. Large-Scale Non-TMDL Project Applications

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested
1	Chippewa County	Lake Wissota Stewardship Project - Yellow River Watershed	WCR	120.5	$280,000	$196,000	$196,000
2	Rusk County	Devils Creek Watershed Project	NOR	116.6	$760,665	$512,750	$708,750
3	Walworth County	Geneva Lake Watershed Implementation Project	SER	109	$144,000	$100,800	$809,550

Black font = proposed to be fully funded
Red font = funding not available

Table 4. Large-Scale TMDL Project Applications

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Region	Score	Total Eligible Project Costs	Total State Share Requested	Cumulative Requested
1	Waupaca County	Shaw Creek - Lower Little Wolf River Watershed	NER	208.2	$1,222,000	$600,000	$600,000
2	Brown County	Upper/Lower East River TRM	NER	189.8	$540,000	$378,000	$978,000
3	Outagamie County	Upper Duck Creek 3 TMDL Implementation	NER	167.2	$856,000	$599,200	$1,577,200
4	Marathon County	Fenwood Creek Watershed Project (Phase II)	WCR	156.2	$745,214	$411,650	$1,988,850
5	Dodge County	Lake Sinissippi-Rock River Watershed Plan	SCR	150.7	$70,000	$490,000	$2,478,850
6	Dodge County	Wildcat Creek Watershed	SCR	150.7	$860,000	$600,000	$3,078,850

Black font = proposed to be fully funded
Red font = funding not available

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: **July 23, 2021**

TO: **Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors**

FROM: **Lisa Trumble**
Bureau of Land and Water Resources, DATCP

SUBJECT: **Revisions to the LWRM Plan 5 Year Review Form & Plan Revision Guidance Document**

Recommendation: Department staff recommend the removal the PowerPoint/Handout presentation requirement for counties presenting their Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans for a five-year review to the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) starting February 2022.

Background: LWRM plans are approved for a period of ten years, with a requirement for counties to present their LWRM plan to the LWCB for review after five years. To facilitate five-year LWRM plan reviews, the Department created a "*Five Year Review of LWRM Plans*" document, which mirrored the requirements of a full LWRM plan revision. The Department also released a *2017 Final Guidance* document that outlines the requirements for county LCD's presenting a LWRM plan for either a five-year or a full plan revision. Department staff have since evaluated whether the continued use of five-year LWRM plan review presentations (i.e PowerPoint or handout) is a necessary requirement to document implementation in the preceding 5 years and future direction.

Timesaving's and increased LWCB meeting efficiency are the primary achievable benefits from the removal of the presentation requirement for five-year LWRM plan reviews. Absent the presentation requirement, counties would still be required to 1) answer the standard set of LWCB questions, 2) provide the previous year's annual work plan with accomplishments, 3) provide the current years' work plan and 4) discuss the submitted materials to the LWCB. Thus, the LWCB would retain their ability to review work plans and question a county LCD during the LWCB meeting.

Required Follow-up: Revise both the *Five Year Review of LWRM Plans* and *2017 Final Guidance* documents to remove language specifically requiring or instructing counties to provide a PowerPoint or Handout presentation when presenting their LWRM plan for a five-year review effective February 2022.

Wisconsin Watch

FAILURE AT THE FAUCET | HEALTH & WELFARE

Cow manure predicted to cause most sickness from contaminated wells in Kewaunee County

A new study predicts the incidence of gastrointestinal illness in private drinking wells, identifying manure as the main cause of contamination

by **Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch**
June 23rd, 2021

Why you can trust WisconsinWatch.org

Arlin and Mary Lou Karnopp live near Luxemburg, Wis., on property once owned by Arlin's great-grandfather. Their house backs up to a field managed by Rolling Hills Dairy farm, where manure is spread. The Karnopps' well has tested positive for nitrates and coliform over the years, and they no longer drink the water. They are afraid to let their grandchildren play in their yard due to fears over contaminated soil. Photo taken March 29, 2019. *(Credit: Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch)*

Reading Time: 12 minutes

*This piece was produced for the **NEW News Lab**, a local news collaboration in Northeast Wisconsin.*

*Microsoft is providing financial support to the **Greater Green Bay Community Foundation** and **Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region** to fund the initiative.*

The No. 1 factor for acute gastrointestinal illness in Kewaunee County's private drinking water wells is cow manure, according to **a federal study released today**. The findings raise questions about the effectiveness of existing regulations aimed at protecting residents from tainted drinking water.

The study predicts that cow manure causes 230 cases of acute gastrointestinal illnesses in the county per year, out of 301 total cases of sickness — with an additional 12 cases caused by human waste from septic systems. The contaminant is unknown for the other instances, the authors wrote.

Symptoms of gastrointestinal illness can include nausea and vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps, sometimes accompanied by fever. Children, the elderly and people with underlying health conditions can be more vulnerable to complications such as dehydration.

Kewaunee County, where cattle outnumber people nearly 5 to 1, has been at the forefront of discussions in Wisconsin over whether local, state and federal governments adequately protect private well water from contamination from dairy manure, especially in areas of fragile geology, including fractured bedrock, which is common in northeastern Wisconsin. The fractured Silurian bedrock allows for water to easily infiltrate to the subsurface, especially after rain or snowmelt.

The main source of illness in private wells was found to be the parasite *Cryptosporidium,* which was estimated to cause 250 cases of illness per year.

Additionally, the research reached a surprising finding: More than 80% of cases were predicted to come from wells located where the depth to bedrock is greater than 20 feet — where most people's wells are located.

Fractured bedrock is the main geology in the county — characterized by porous rock with both horizontal and vertical fissures that allow contaminants in the soil to move quickly into the groundwater.

These jars contain brown water taken from a tap in Kewaunee County that researchers tied to spreading of manure on a nearby field in 2016. The soil from the field and water from the home shared the same signatures for fecal contaminants. *(Credit: Courtesy of Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department)*

The study, by lead author Tucker Burch, a U.S. Department of Agriculture research agricultural engineer, was published today in the journal **Environmental Health Perspectives**. Also published today was **a companion study by USDA microbiologist Mark Borchardt**, which found nitrate and coliform in Kewaunee's drinking wells mostly comes from agriculture — not human waste from septic systems.

Borchardt's study examined the sources of well water contamination and which factors can reduce or increase the risk of tainted drinking water. His team used models to predict how those factors — like the distance of a well from a manure lagoon or agricultural field, number of septic systems, weather and the quality of well construction — can impact the levels of contamination. He presented initial findings at the Midwest Manure Summit in Green Bay in 2019.

That study found that the main risk factor for well contamination by coliform bacteria was its proximity to a manure storage pit, a common method used by large farms to store and later dispose of manure. Additionally, it found that digging a deeper well did not protect that well from getting contaminated, meaning that even if a homeowner gets a new well drilled, that may not protect the household from contamination.

USDA microbiologist Mark Borchardt speaks in Kewaunee County in 2017. (Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch) *(Credit: Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch)*

> **Related stories:** **Most nitrate, coliform in Kewaunee County wells tied to animal waste**
>
> **Fecal microbes found in 60 percent of sampled wells, raising concerns about dairy manure, septic waste**

Burch's study was based on a year-long, countywide pathogen occurrence study conducted from April 2016 to March 2017 that examined 138 private well samples. Borchardt's study was based on those samples, as well as hundreds of others tested for coliform and nitrate analysis. According to Borchardt, the two papers represent the most comprehensive, site-specific private well study conducted to date in the U.S.

A leading farmer in the area questioned the value of the findings of Burch's study, saying manure practices have improved significantly since those water samples were taken.

Don Niles, a Kewaunee County dairy farmer and president of the nonprofit Peninsula Pride Farms says farmers in Door and Kewaunee counties are now using improved techniques to manage manure, including planting more cover crops to improve soil health. And, he says about half of all manure spread on shallow soils in Kewaunee County now goes through a digester first.

"That's been a major push up here because we wanted that pathogen reduction," he said.

"We have to demonstrate that we've destroyed 999 organisms out of 1,000 (before landspreading the manure). So a 3,000-cow dairy that digests manure now is spreading the same amount of coliforms as a three-cow dairy with no digester. So that's substantial. That's not just taking a little off the edge."

Regulations fall short?

Burch's report could have important implications for land use and water resource management in Kewaunee County — and elsewhere across the state with a fractured bedrock geography — as it predicts for the first time the number of acute gastrointestinal illnesses and the specific fecal source.

Burch's research team is conducting a similar study in the southwestern Wisconsin counties of Iowa, Grant and Lafayette, and hope to present findings this fall. A study of groundwater conducted in 2018 in those counties found that 34% of 301 sampled wells tested positive for coliform, 16% for nitrate, and 4% for *E. Coli*.

Fractured bedrock, also known as karst, is common in Kewaunee County. The vertical fractures can carry water and contaminants from the surface to the groundwater. At left are two wells drilled at varying depths into the aquifer. Research by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist Mark Borchardt suggests that digging a deeper well does not protect it from contamination. *(Credit: Courtesy of Door County Soil and Water)*

According to Burch's report, private wells are the primary source of drinking water for about 12,000 Kewaunee County residents. Private wells in Wisconsin are not monitored by government agencies, and the maintenance and testing of well water is in the hands of the well owner. When a well or land becomes tainted with runoff from a neighboring farm, homeowners often don't have recourse, unless they can **prove it was contaminated by livestock waste**.

Private homeowners in that situation may be eligible for a **well compensation program** that provides money for filling and sealing old wells, drilling and constructing a new well or installing a treatment system. If they have *E. coli* in their well, Peninsula Pride Farms "**Water Well**" program also offers help.

But Borchardt's research shows that a new or deeper well does not necessarily provide protection.

New manure rules for northeastern Wisconsin

Recent changes to the state's manure management rules prohibit all dairy farms in areas of the state with Silurian bedrock from mechanically applying manure on fields with less than 2 feet of soil over bedrock or groundwater. Also prohibited are mechanical applications of manure when an inch or more of rain has fallen in the previous 24 hours and on frozen or snow-covered ground with less than 5 feet of soil over bedrock. And manure applications must be 250 feet away from drinking water wells.

These standards are part of a set of rules known as NR 151, which ban fecal contamination of drinking water by mechanical manure application.

Manure is spread on a farm field during the Door-Kewaunee Watershed Demonstration Farms Networks Spring Field Day at Heims Hillcrest Dairy, in Casco, Wis., on May 1, 2018. A new study predicts that cow manure causes 230 cases of acute gastrointestinal illnesses in Kewaunee County per year. *(Credit: Tad Dukehart for Wisconsin Watch)*

Joe Baeten, the northeast watershed management regional supervisor for the state Department of Natural Resources, says the updated rules, passed in 2018, will be slowly implemented over the next 10 years as large farms known as concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, get new or reissued permits. Smaller farms that land spread manure are also required to follow the rules.

The rules apply to some areas in Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties.

The regulations place the most restrictions on solid and liquid manure spreading in areas between 2 and 5 feet to the bedrock. There are fewer restrictions on areas with soil depth between 5 and 20 feet. But, Burch noted

that shallow wells are uncommon in the county and, “Most people in the county have wells in the greater than 20 foot depth-to-bedrock category.”

To monitor the impact of the updated rules, Baeten says the DNR, in partnership with the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey, is designing a new project that will put groundwater monitoring wells around the northeastern part of the state. At least one site will be located in the Kewaunee/Door County area and will consist of 12 monitoring wells with controlled variables such as manure application rates and field conditions.

The DNR was a funder of Borchardt’s original research, and Baeten says the findings helped inform the rulemaking process. “Now that the rules are in place, we want to know, will the rules work?” Baeten said. “Down the road there might be another phase where we ask, ‘Did the rules work after we got past 10 years of implementation? Have we seen results?’ It’s a long phased process.”

Lagoons, landspreading eyed as sources

Scientists who testified in Stevens Point before the **Assembly’s Water Quality Task Force in 2019** told lawmakers that for rural residents to have clean drinking water, farmers must change how they manage fertilizers, including manure.

Borchardt’s and Burch’s research also suggests that current farming practices are contributing to well contamination and illness, because of the way manure leaks from storage lagoons and manure spread on land seeps through the bedrock into the aquifer and private wells.

The house owned by Arlin and Mary Lou Karnopp near Luxemburg, Wis. backs up to farm fields where manure is spread on the land. The Karnopps' well has tested positive for nitrates and coliform over the years, and they no longer drink or cook with the water. Research by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist Mark Borchardt found that high nitrate contamination is linked to the presence of agricultural fields and manure lagoons. Photo taken March 29, 2019. *(Credit: Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch)*

Niles, however, challenged the design of Burch's new study, saying it overstates the level of disease in the area. He noted that the study is predictive, not epidemiological, and does not reflect the number of cases reported to local health officials.

But the researchers note that their findings are consistent with actual cases reported to the Kewaunee County Public Health Department.

That department reports an average of 4.5 cryptosporidiosis cases per year between 2015 and 2020, and 4.2 cases of salmonellosis. But Burch says those numbers are artificially low, as such ailments tend to be underdiagnosed and underreported. He says scientific literature suggests that for every one case of cryptosporidiosis reported, there are 100 more that go unreported. For salmonellosis, the comparison is 1 to 30.

Said Burch: “The reason for this is that not everyone who gets one of these diseases goes to see a doctor, not everyone that sees a doctor gets tested, the tests involved don’t always work perfectly, and the test results don’t always get reported to public health agencies.”

Current rules do not protect drinking water

All of the **17 concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in Kewaunee County** have nutrient management plans (NMPs) designed to regulate when, where and how much manure can be spread on agricultural fields. These plans are recommended by the Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to meet crop nutrient needs while also reducing the potential for manure and other nutrients to run off into ground and surface waters. Farms including CAFOs, those enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program and those that accept state subsidies are required to have such a plan. For the rest of Wisconsin’s farms, the plans are voluntary.

The Karnopps of rural Luxemburg, Wis., warn visitors not to drink the water from taps in their home. The couple’s well has tested positive for nitrates and coliform, and they no longer use it for drinking or

cooking. Photo taken March 29, 2019. *(Credit: Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch)*

According to DATCP, in 2020 about 36% of Wisconsin's croplands have such a plan, and about 70% of farms are in compliance with the terms.

But the conservation group Wisconsin's Green Fire **published a 2019 report on nitrates in drinking water** citing estimates as low as 15% compliance. Additionally, the advocacy group, which is made up of Wisconsin experts in natural resource management, environmental law and scientific research, proposed offering farmers incentives to embrace the plans. They also argued for strengthening the existing standards to make sure that groundwater is protected.

"In high-risk areas (including, but not limited to, areas of shallow or sandy soil, or areas with porous bedrock), compliance with existing nutrient management guidelines is by itself insufficient to protect water quality," the report said.

Manure tankers deliver liquid manure to an agricultural field near Ixonia, Wis., in 2018. (Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch) *(Credit: Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch)*

> **Related story:** **Wisconsin Supreme Court weighs state power to protect water from farm pollutants**

Other experts agree, saying these plans are primarily designed to benefit crops, not drinking water.

James Matson, retired DATCP chief legal counsel, wrote the 2017 report: "**Food, Land and Water — Can Wisconsin Find Its Way?**," with contributions from Ed Odgers, retired chief agricultural engineer for DATCP. The report said the amount of manure grows every year as milk production rises — and many areas of the state can't handle the increased volume.

According to the report, Wisconsin cows produce roughly 64 billion pounds of manure, a combination of feces and urine — about 7% more than in the previous decade.

In a 2018 interview, Odgers said that a nutrient management plan "is a very generalized standard, it is not a standard that is designed to ensure environmental protection."

"That's in part why a lot of the farms, for example in Kewaunee County, are meeting current standards, but those standards … are not adequate, in my personal opinion, to meet the very vulnerable site conditions that we have there."

In fact, Borchardt says that the more fields with nutrient management plans surrounding a well, the greater the chance is that the well will be contaminated with high nitrate. "This suggests nutrient management plans in Kewaunee County are not mitigating nitrate contamination of groundwater," he said.

Tainted well, yard full of manure

One family who has experienced the effects of high nitrates and bacteria in their well water is Arlin and Mary Lou Karnopp near Luxemburg, Wisconsin — about 20 miles east of Green Bay in Kewaunee County. Their household was part of the original well water study conducted by Borchardt and Maureen Muldoon, a geology professor from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Their well was sampled multiple times, with one test showing elevated levels of coliform bacteria, another showing elevated levels of nitrate-nitrogen. In 2016, the Karnopps stopped drinking or cooking with their well water although they do use it to shower.

The Karnopp family has suffered many health problems over the years. Their son-in-law who lives in nearby Casco, Wisconsin had stage 3 colon cancer, which **can be caused by high nitrates** in water. Their grandson was born without a hip. Mary Lou has suffered multiple bladder infections tied to *E. coli*, and in 2020, she had a stroke. The Karnopps can't prove the health issues are due to tainted water, but say they continue to wonder whether that was the cause.

Arlin Karnopp takes water samples from his front yard during a rainstorm in the town of Montpelier, near Luxemburg, Wis. The water was found to contain manure, which had been spread on a neighboring field in the fall of 2018. The field where the spreading occurred backs up to his house. Photo taken March 14, 2019. *(Credit: Tad Dukehart for Wisconsin Watch)*

In addition to a contaminated well, the Karnopps suffered an additional manure-related catastrophe in February 2019 when frozen manure spread on a neighbor's property thawed in a rainstorm, flowed downhill and flooded their yard with liquid manure. When the weather got colder, it froze into place. And then it melted, leaving a pool of manure-contaminated water 50 feet around and several inches deep.

Karnopp took water samples, which showed results that were "indicative of manure," according to James Iverson from the private lab Analytichem. The DNR took samples which tested positive for *E. coli*.

Various representatives from the county and state inspected their property. The state DNR notified Halls Calf Ranch, which spread the manure on the property, that it was violating its state wastewater permit, and the farm was ordered to have "no further unauthorized discharges to waters of the state as a result of manure runoff."

To date, the Karnopps have received no compensation for the mishap from the government or the neighboring CAFO where the manure was spread — which has already been **cited for multiple other violations**.

The Karnopps are weighing whether to dig a new well — or even sell the home built on land once owned by Arlin's great-grandfather.

"The value of my home is gone. That's the worst part, if we want to sell, we have a contaminated well. Being our age, if we want to sell we aren't going to get anything for it," he said.

And he remains skeptical the family will have a positive resolution. In a recent email, he wrote, "We might as well talk to a brick outhouse."

*This piece was produced for the **NEW News Lab**, a local news collaboration in Northeast Wisconsin. The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (**www.WisconsinWatch.org**) collaborates with WPR, Wisconsin PBS, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication. All works created, published, posted or disseminated by Wisconsin Watch do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of UW-Madison or any of its affiliates.*

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Coburn Dukehart joined the Center in 2016 as digital and multimedia director. Her role includes directing the Center's visual strategy, creating visual and audio content, managing digital assets and training student and professional journalists.

Dukehart previously was a senior photo editor at National Geographic, the picture and multimedia editor at NPR, a photo editor at USATODAY.com and washingtonpost.com, interned in the White House photo department, and worked for a London-based publishing group. She has received awards from the National Press Photographers Association, Pictures of the Year International and the White House News Photographers Association. Her multimedia and photography work has been honored with a Webby, a Gracie, a Murrow, a duPont, and Milwaukee Press Club awards, and she was nominated for a national Emmy. Dukehart received a bachelor's degree in journalism and English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She holds a master's degree in photojournalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

More by Coburn Dukehart / Wisconsin Watch

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS Wisconsin
Quarterly Update

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 90 basic conservation practices. Applications are accepted on a continuous, year-round basis. Applications for the 2nd round of EQIP funding for FY21 were due May 21, 2021.

Climate Smart Agriculture

The NRCS in Wisconsin held a targeted signup to support climate-smart agriculture and soil health through voluntary conservation practices in 10 states, including Wisconsin. This assistance, available through the EQIP, will help agricultural producers plan and implement voluntary conservation practices that sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change on working lands through soil health practices. Signup in Wisconsin closed July 9, 2021, and applications are currently being evaluated.

Local Working Groups

NRCS Wisconsin held a successful statewide virtual Local Working Group Meeting on July 14, 2021. Over 200 attendees participated. We are looking for feedback to help plan our programs for next fiscal year. Please consider providing us feedback through our online survey. Visit our website, www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov, and under the HIGHLIGHTS section, click on the "Take the Conservation Local Working Group SURVEY HERE." Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Urban Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the availability of up to $4 million for grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production is accepting proposals for planning and innovation projects, and these grants are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture. USDA will accept applications on www.grants.gov until July 30, 2021. More info can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/news/wi/newsroom/releases/

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP provides assistance to landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years to further enhance their stewardship efforts. Applications are accepted on a continuous year-round basis. The FY2021 Classic Application deadline was March 26, 2021. Applications turned in after that deadline will be considered for FY2022 Classic funding.

NRCS Programs Financial Update

Program		FY20	FY21
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Financial Assistance Allocation	$44.5mil[b]	$ 21.6 M [a c]
	Contracts	1,502[a]	869 [a c]
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Financial Assistance Allocation	$19.3mil.	$11.1 M [c]
	New Contracts	339	75 [c]
	Renewal Contracts	193	250 [c]
	New Acres	238,370	132,528 [c]
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program–Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP–ALE) *Includes RCPP ALE in brackets	Financial Assistance Allocation	$350,808 [$3.97 mil]	$510,413
	Agreements	2 [1]	4
	Parcels	2 [20]	4
	Acres	181 [1,500]	339
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program–Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP–WRE)	Financial Assistance Allocation	$13.8 mil.	$3,064,783
	Easements	2	5
	Acres	1,866	543
Emergency Watershed Protection Program–Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)	Financial Assistance Reserve	$8 mil.	$8 mi.
	Proposed Easements	19	17
	Proposed Acres	1,315	1,278
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Agreements	3	3

[a] Includes initiatives and special funding.
[b] Initiatives and special funding allocations have not been determined yet.
[c] Funding decisions not yet complete for the fiscal year.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The USDA announced it is investing $330 million in 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships to address climate change, improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability, including 3 projects in Wisconsin. Projects are awarded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The three Wisconsin projects include (1) Improving Soil Health and Water Quality, (2) Grasslands and Oak Savannas for Water and Wildlife and (3) Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership Project. Read more here: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1769085

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

For 2021, the Wisconsin easement program received an allocation similar to the last several years for both Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) and Agriculture Land Easements (ALE). For WRE, we had 80 applications on more than 6,500 acres at a cost of almost $33 million and were allocated approximately $2.3 million. We are pursuing five new easements. High land costs and larger than average parcel sizes has led to fewer easement being funded in 2021 than a few years ago. For ALE, we are enrolling four of five applications with our $450,000 allocation.

A large Regional Conservation Partnership Program – ALE workload is on the horizon with two cooperating entities proposing acquisition of over 60 new ALE easements in the next few years.

Wisconsin is processing 17 Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE) on 1,276 acres.

Covid19

USDA Service Centers are encouraging visitors to take proactive protective measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Service Centers in Wisconsin will continue to be open for business by phone appointment and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Some offices are allowing in-person, scheduled visits. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. In the event a Service Center is closed, producers can receive assistance from the closest alternate Service Center by phone. For the most recent office opening information visit www.farmers.gov/coronavirus. Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the Conservation Client Gateway.

Collaborative Tribal Publication

The NRCS in partnership with the WTCAC announced a new collaborative publication, Wisconsin Tribal Conservation: Stewardship for the Future, is available online, highlighting successful conservation efforts with the 11 federally recognized Tribes of Wisconsin. Six other USDA agencies and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are also partnering to highlight the protection and restoration of natural resources on Wisconsin Tribal lands. Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/factsheets/ to download the publication.

New Resources for Maple Producers

The USDA offers technical expertise and financial assistance to help Wisconsin maple producers fund their operations, conserve natural resources and recover from natural disasters. A new factsheet is available with information on programs that NRCS, FSA and RMA offer to maple producers. Visit the NRCS website for more information at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1757630

Gov Delivery

Get the news first! Individuals can enroll in GovDelivery to receive up-to-date notifications by e-mail when new information becomes available about any state or national NRCS topic you choose. If you sign-up for these automatic updates, you will only receive notifications you specify and you may unsubscribe at any time. Sign up for Wisconsin updates by visiting: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOC/subscriber/new

DATCP REPORT
Bureau of Land and Water Resources
August 2021

Soil and Water Resources Management Grants

- The 2022 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan will be presented at the August 3rd Land and Water Conservation Board meeting. To view the plan, visit the LWCB website.
- Any county interested in moving towards electronic payments for SWRM projects, please reach out to Kim or Susan.

Conservation Engineering

- Funding Opportunity: Each year, DATCP collaborates with DNR to fund projects that address farm discharges. **Funds are still available in the DATCP engineering reserve fund for eligible projects**. Applications will be considered as they come in. Any awarded projects need to be contracted this year and can be extended one year, but need to be completed by end of 2022. If you have a project that addresses a farm discharge and need funds to complete it, please contact your DATCP area engineering staff for more information.

Producer-Led Grant Program

- The 2022 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants application and instructions are available on the Producer-Led webpage and at the links below.

Click here to view:

- Application
- Instructions

- Tune in this summer and fall for the Producer-Led Planting New Ideas, Growing Conservation Webinar series. We will follow four farms throughout the growing season to highlight the various aspects of these two systems. We will cover how management strategies shift throughout the season, and vary on different farms with different soils and landscapes in Wisconsin. Register here: DATCP Home Producer-Led Webinar Series (wi.gov)

Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans

- The August 3, 2021 meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will be conducted over Microsoft Teams. Pierce and Waupaca Counties will be presenting their LWRM plan revisions for approval. Brown County will be presenting five year reviews of their LWRM plans. To join the meeting remotely, please follow the instructions in the August meeting agenda which is available at lwcb.wi.gov.
- For updates on LWCB meetings and meeting links please subscribe to LWCB govdelivery notices. Please contact zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov for questions regarding joining via Microsoft Teams. Counties that are working through the LWRM plan revision process during COVID-19 restrictions may have questions and concerns about the requirements that need to be met for plan approval. Contact Lisa.Trumble@wisconsin.gov to discuss possible options to completing your plan revisions.

Farmland Preservation Program and Agricultural Enterprise Areas

- Farmland Preservation Zoning ordinances were approved for the Town of Pittsfield and Village of Howard in Brown County.
- New Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) petitions are due August 2. The petition review committee will meet on August 12th to review the submitted petitions and recommend those that are eligible for designation by the Secretary. For questions about the AEA petition process or the Farmland Preservation Program, please contact Wednesday Jordan at wednesday.jordan@wisconsin.gov.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- DATCP updated the 15 Year Agreement (LWR-283), Perpetual Easement Application (LWR-209), and instruction forms on the CREP For Counties webpage. The current version of these forms are dated 07/21 in the upper left hand corner of the first page. The form updates reflect changes FSA made on 6/14/2021 to the CRP-2C form adjusting the weighted average soil rental rate used to calculate the CREP payment changed from box #15 to box #14. DATCP will no longer accept LWR-283's or LWR-209's that are versions older than 01/2020, so please be sure to use the most recent and updated forms.
- DATCP requests that LCD's work with DATCP staff to perform monitoring visits on perpetual easements with expired FSA CRP-1 contracts. These visits are essential for benchmarking the status of the conservation practices and identifying and communicating to landowners any issues on the site prior to them becoming severe. LCD's should contact Alec Martin (alec.martin@wisconsin.gov) as soon as possible to arrange a time to do the site visits.
- Virtual CREP 101 Training is offered by DATCP to all CREP counties. The training is offered per LCD request and reviews program requirements, landowner engagement, agency partnership coordination and county administrative processes. All local agency partners are invited to attend and the training is valuable to both new and seasoned local CREP staff. Please contact Brian Loeffelholz at Brian.Loeffelholz@wisconsin.gov to set up a time for training in your county.

Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) Program

- The AIS program is currently drafting an AIS for an American Transmission Company LLC proposed high voltage electric transmission line near Howards Grove in Sheboygan County. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is reviewing this project under Docket number 137-CE-195. The AIS program is actively reaching out to affected agricultural landowners and consulting with impacted units of government regarding the project.
- Contact zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov for questions regarding this ongoing AIS statement or the AIS program.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: August 3, 2021

TO: LWCB members and advisors

FROM: Brian Weigel, DNR

SUBJECT: DNR Update, June 2021 - July 2021, for Augusts LWCB meeting

Storm Water Program Update

The department has been drafting and reissuing general permits that expire in 2021. The auto salvage and scrap metal recycling general permits were reissued on May 1st. The Tier 1 and Tier 2 industrial storm water general permits were reissued on May 31st. Changes to the salvage, scrap, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 industrial permits included: updating electronic reporting requirements; clarifying that discharges within Indian Country are ineligible for coverage under the permits; clarifying that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or SWPPP Summary may be submitted when requesting coverage under a general permit; clarifying language addressing the minimum source area control requirements for salt storage facilities and minimizing the exposure of pollutants associated with salt or brine, and including applicable language for a petition to move to individual permit coverage. The scrap and salvage permits were also updated to include additional source areas to be addressed in the SWPPP, and, for non-Cooperative Compliance Program members, the requirement for annual sampling of Total Phosphorus. The Tier 1 and Tier 2 Permits now remain valid for a period of four years.

The department held a public informational hearing on the Non-Metallic Mining General Permit on June 23, 2021. The public comment period closed on June 30, 2021. The most significant changes to the general permit include recombining the non-metallic mining and the industrial sand permits and updating water quality effluent limits based on the types and receiving location of the discharge. The general permit expires at the end of July. Finally, the Construction Site General Permit is currently in development and will be out for public comment in mid-July. The Construction Site General Permit expires September 30, 2021.

The department has completed updates to Ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm Code. which is scheduled for review by the Natural Resources Board on August 10, 2021. The rule implements state statutes governing storm water permits and the urban non-point source performance standards in Ch. NR 151, Wis. Adm. Code. This update clarifies state and federal rules, implements the federal Remand Rule and proposes an increase in application fees.

CAFO Program Update

The CAFO Program has completed work to meet EPA's eReporting requirements, helping ensure program accountability and transparency. As a result of this work, the DNR electronically reports data related to permit applications, annual reports, NMP updates, and inspections to EPA's database (ICIS).

Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

A TMDL for phosphorus and total suspended solids has been under development for the past few years. The NEL TMDL study area spans a portion of the Lake Michigan watershed from just south of Sturgeon Bay to Port Washington and reaches west towards Lake Winnebago (Lake Winnebago is covered by the Upper Fox and Wolf TMDL), covering 1,964 square miles, approximately 3.5 percent of the state. Later this summer/early fall, there will be a webinar to present the draft point source and nonpoint source allocations and implementation information, followed by a public comment period and outreach to

individual stakeholder sectors. Although the TMDL will not formally address nitrogen, there will be a report on work done to evaluate levels and sources of nitrogen in these watersheds. The TMDL is expected to be completed some time in 2022. More information at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/TMDLs/NELakeshore.html

Impaired Waters List (303d)

The Clean Water Act requires states to assess the health of their rivers, lakes and streams and to report on those conditions every two years. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to include in that report a list of waters that are not meeting water quality goals, also known as "impaired waters". DNR has completed assessments that will be reported by April 1, 2022 and will be publishing the draft 2022 list of impaired waters for public comment in August. Waters identified as impaired are then prioritized for TMDL development. The good news is that the number of impaired waters that have been identified in recent reporting cycles has been decreasing! And the amount of HEALTHY waters in Wisconsin far outweighs the number that are impaired. More information at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/Assessments.html

Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse

Wisconsin has a well-established program for water quality trading. Regulated point sources may comply with stringent phosphorus permit limits by buying credits generated by installation of agricultural BMPs in their watershed. Act 151 passed in the 2020 legislative session requiring the establishment of a central clearinghouse for buying and selling water pollution credits and required the Department of Administration, in collaboration with DNR, to procure a vendor to establish and run the clearinghouse. DNR staff have been working with DOA over the past year to develop a Request for Proposal. The draft RFP will be going to a preliminary public notice period in July, with the official RFP solicitation following later this year. More information at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wastewater/WaterQualityTrading.html

PFAS Water Quality Standards

Wisconsin DNR will be proposing surface water quality standards for two of the PFAS class of chemicals: PFOS and PFOA. The rule will affect municipal and industrial dischargers regulated under the WPDES permit program, so the rule will include details for implementation of the new standards. The standards and implementation procedures are being proposed to protect public health regarding consumption of fish or ingestion of surface water. The initial opportunity for public review and input of the proposed rule is when DNR provides an initial estimate of the economic impact of complying with the rule and solicits additional relevant information to refine the analysis. The rule text and explanation are provided as part of the package for public review. This 30-day review will end towards the end of August. The formal public comment period and hearing(s) will occur in September/October. More info on this rule, Board order number WY-23-19, at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/ProposedPermanent.html

USEPA Grant Funding for Great Lakes Basin Water Quality Projects

On June 15, 2021, the USEPA requested grant applications (by Aug 20, 2021) from Great Lakes basin states to complete projects that use innovative ways to reduce nutrients from urban and agricultural runoff, with a special consideration for underserved communities. The USEPA proposed to award approximately $9 million in total - for roughly 24 projects in three categories: 1) Green infrastructure in shoreline communities; *special consideration given to projects benefitting underserved communities* 2) Riparian restoration to reduce runoff, 3) Legacy phosphorus in agricultural settings.

Wisconsin DNR and County Land Conservation Departments have submitted three applications for this competitive EPA grant:

Brown County – East River Watershed BMP Implementation; Lower Fox River TMDL Basin
This proposal meets the Legacy phosphorus category by proposing up to 4 phosphorus control structures for drain tiles from agricultural land. The Lower Fox Basin represents approximately 10% of the land area in the entire Fox Wolf River basins; while contributing approximately 40% of the TP load. The East River sub-watershed contributes the 3rd highest ag per unit loads of total phosphorus, and 2nd highest ag per unit loads of TSS behind the neighboring sub-watersheds Plum Creek and Kankapot Creek.

Green Lake County – Green Lake County Ag BMP Implementation in Weurches Creek and Roy Creek watersheds; Upper Fox River TMDL Basin This proposal fits the Legacy phosphorus and Riparian Restoration categories by promoting soil health practices (reduced tillage, cover crops, inter-seeding, green planting, alternative silage, relay cropping, side dressing manure and equipment modification) and streambank/structural practices (streambank stabilization, saturated buffers, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs), and grade stabilization based on farmer's needs). According to the Upper Fox Wolf TMDL report, Weurches and Roy Creek are two of the highest nutrient loading watersheds in Green Lake County and the Upper Fox River TMDL basin.

Ashland County – Natural Flood Management- Marengo River Watershed, Ashland County, WI.
This project fits within the Riparian restoration category by proposing to replace an undersized culvert, treating headcuts, reconnecting a historic floodplain wetland and restoring a wetland to reduce peak flows and treat nutrient runoff at multiple locations along an unstable stream reach of the Marengo River Watershed (MRW). The MRW is a subwatershed of the Bad River, one of the largest sediment and nutrient sources to Lake Superior and the tribally owned Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs—a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and location of culturally significant wild rice beds.

The USEPA funding is made possible by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which was launched in 2010 as a non-regulatory program to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world.