

2019 REPORT

Improving, Protecting and Investing in Natural Resources of Adams County



CREATED BY: Megan Steckelberg

ADAMS COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPT

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STAFF MEMBERS

Kason Morley,
 County Conservationist 2 years
Chuck Sibilsky,
 Resource
 Conservationist..... 12 years
Sam Peterson,
 Water Resource
 Specialist 1 year
Megan Steckelberg,
 Conservation Program
 Coordinator 2 years

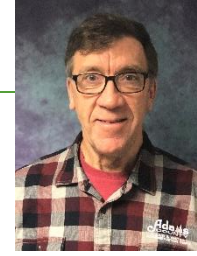
LAND & WATER AND UWEX COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Florence Johnson,
 Committee Chair
Paul Pisellini,
 Committee Vice Chair
Barb Morgan,
 Supervisor
Rick Pease,
 Supervisor
Jerry Poehler,
 Supervisor
Raechel Kosler,
 Farm Service Agent Representative
Onie Karch,
 Citizen Lake Representative

LWCD STAFF



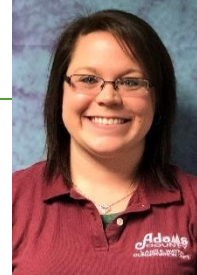
KASON MORLEY
 County
 Conservationist



CHUCK SIBILSKY
 Resource
 Conservationist



SAM PETERSON
 Water Resource
 Specialist



MEGAN STECKELBERG
 Conservation
 Program
 Coordinator

LAND & WATER AND UWEX COMMITTEE



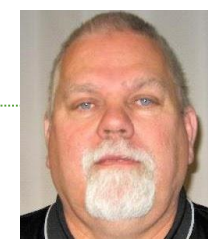
FLORENCE JOHNSON
 Chair



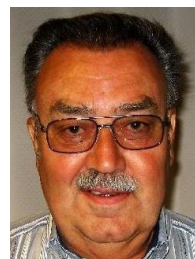
PAUL PISELLINI
 Vice Chair



BARB MORGAN
 Supervisor



RICK PEASE
 Supervisor



JERRY POEHLER
 Supervisor

NOT PICTURED:
 Onie Karch - Lake Rep
 Raechel Kosler - FSA

Local Business

A-F County Market
 A-F Lions Club
 Ace of Adams
 Adams County Farm Bureau
 Adams County Parks
 Department
 Aspirus Clinic
 BEACH Travel
 Chula Vista
 Connell's Cedar Shack
 Dam Castle Rock Bait Shop
 Dirty Turtle
 GMJ Automotive
 Hick's Photography
 Lake Arrowhead Golf Course
 Milk Source
 Pampered Chef w/ Megan
 Pavelec Realty
 Pinecrest Golf & Archery LLC
 Pineland Camping
 Royal Bank
 Rural Mutual w/ Heather
 Rhinehart
 Sand Valley Golf Course
 West Rock of Adams
 Wisconsin 106 Radio Station
 Wisconsin River Meats

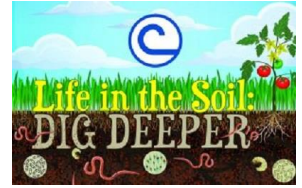
YOUTH EDUCATION

Megan would like to give a big thank you to our Adams County School Staff and those who helped make these events possible.

POSTER CONTEST

2019's Poster Theme was "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper". Our county had 12 posters from grades

K-1st, 10 posters from grades 2nd-3rd, and 101 posters from grades 4th-6th, making a total submission of 123 posters. That's a 64% increase from 2018!



Each participant received a free waterpark pass to Chula Vista and a participation certificate. 1st place thru 3rd place posters received the waterpark pass to Chula Vista donated by Chula Vista, a couple tickets to Mall of America donated by Wisconsin 106 and some art supplies kits donated by Adams County Farm Bureau.

2019 Adams County Winners:		
Primary Division (K-1 st)	Elementary Division (2 nd -3 rd)	Middle Division (4 th -6 th)
1st Place: Austin Keip	1st Place: Jameson Nawrot	1st Place: Maddisyn Shaske
2nd Place: Messiah Wilson	2nd Place: Jackson Bonnett	2nd Place: Bristol Raymer
3rd Place: Kayden Wright	3rd Place: Aaliyanna Deane	3rd Place: Kennedy Manzer

Thank you to our teachers for helping Megan with this contest, she wouldn't be able to do it without your contribution. Thank you to our donors; Adams



Left to Right: Austin Keip, Jameson Nawrot, Maddisyn Shaske

County Farm Bureau, Chula Vista, and Wisconsin 106.



FARM DAY FOR 4TH GRADERS

The 4th graders went to Wallendal Farms, where they learned about farming conservation practices, agriculture careers, history and pollination they have in their farm. The kids also got to tour New Chester Dairy, where they learned about milking and how they started. I think they enjoyed it!



FUN WITH PLANTS & ANIMALS



Sam and Megan helped out with a summer school program called Fun with Plants & Animals. Our Water Resource Specialist and our Conservation Program Coordinator went to teach about watersheds and water quality.

The kids really enjoyed it and learned a lot, pictures say it all!



WATER QUALITY AGRICULTURE CLASS



Sam and Megan met up with a small group in an Agriculture class to teach them about water quality. The kids learned how to collect species, take water temperature and samples and use the succi disk.



AGRICULTURE CAREER DAY



Adams County FFA Advisor, Becky Grabarski, helped her high school Ag students host a "Career Day" for the Adams County's 6th & 7th graders. Adams County LWCD agreed to be a station where kids could learn what it is LWCD does and the schooling it takes to get here. LWCD also had the students use the turbidity tube.



WI ENVIROTHON

Wisconsin Envirothon is our state's ultimate middle and high school environmental science challenge, where teams of five high school or middle school students participate in the hands-on, outdoor field challenges designed by natural resources professionals and educators. This day-long event is an excellent opportunity for students to develop leadership and communication skills that champion a more sustainable and environmentally-aware community. Teams take exams based on four categories: Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, and Wildlife. In addition, teams create group presentations based on a pre-selected, topical conservation issue that local conservation professionals are dealing with across the state. The team presentations help students articulate today's critical environmental concerns and develop the skills to communicate the conservation ethic in whatever scholastic, career, or civic choices lie ahead. Winners advance to the North American Envirothon/Regional Envirothon to compete for

scholarships and prizes. *Source:*

<https://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/envirothon>



Megan assisted the WI Land+Water YEC with hosting this event in Rosholt and plans to help in future years.



CONSERVATION DAY FOR 5TH GRADERS

Adams County Land & Water Department put on a "Conservation Field Day" for Adams County 5th graders. There were 6 stations with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Land and Water Conservation (LWC) staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), UW Extension, and a local farmer (Wallendal Farms). They taught about invasive species in water, soil erosion, plant/tree life, fishing & trapping, pollination and DNR law. It was a whole day with 100 students.



DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

EDUCATION OUTREACH

LWCD hosted a Nutrient Management workshop for Farmers to learn and ask questions about the program SnapPlus with Sue Porter from Department of Agriculture Trade Consumer Protection (DATCP). This program helps farmers create a nutrient management plan to increase profitability and decrease unnecessary fertilizer applications.

Megan also offered to train local lake associations on Facebook. She helped those who attended understand the importance of today's communication and how to manage their pages to share information with the community.

Cost-Share Projects:

The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) offers grants to county governments through the Soil and Water Resource Management Program. In return, the county departments submit detailed annual reports with their documented progress and planned benchmarks to meet state (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) priorities at the end of each year.

WATER QUALITY

The LWCD has partnered with the Adams County Health Officer, Leah Eckstein, to implement a County Beach Monitoring Program, which is designed to inform the beach users when conditions are unsafe to swim at certain beach locations. The program has involved many outreach meetings to inform the public to use their best judgement when using the lakes. This program will continue again in 2020.

The LWCD has also assisted in the review and update of multiple Lake Management plans.

Throughout the year LWCD visited many different properties assisting landowners with technical advice to help with flooding that continues to plague our county. Unfortunately, in many cases not much can be done until groundwater recedes naturally. LWCD has been monitoring multiple situations.

FOURTEEN MILE WATERSHED 9 KEY ELEMENT PLAN

There was a lot of time spent into developing and submitting the 9 Key Element Plan for the Fourteen Mile watershed. LWCD is still waiting on approval from the DNR and EPA. Upon approval many stakeholders will need to take action to follow the plan to improve water quality within the watershed.

BEACH CLUB GRANT

Sam, Chuck and Megan went out on each lake and inventoried 40+ beach clubs (*view photo to the right*). Sam is currently creating individual plans for each club to distribute to the club members in 2020. More information on these meetings will be posted via Facebook, website and mailers.



CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING



In partnership with DNR, the LWCD staff provide training to community members to participate in the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program. The volunteers measure temperature, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and water clarity four times a year between May and September. The results are recorded, analyzed, kept on record within the LWCD, and entered into the WDNR's Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System—a state online database. The data is used to identify trends in water quality and aid lake management decisions. Sam, the Water Resource Specialist, oversees the citizen lake monitoring efforts and aquatic invasive species studies. These are important programs, as well, as invasive can alter entire ecosystems by outcompeting native species.

The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) is a group of citizens who volunteer to test water quality throughout the county during the summer months. Sam has organized and managed the CLMN and has expanded multiple lakes and added additional testing. LWCD will be hosting a training for volunteers to give any updates and go over testing procedures in spring 2020. For more information please contact Sam, Water Resource Specialist at (608) 339-4269.

SUNSET CONDOS PROJECT

This shoreline had some erosion problem areas that needed to be fixed. This specific site is located at the Sunset Condominiums at Northern Bay on the Wisconsin River. LWCD and Property Works in Adams, WI, came up with a riparian buffer plan, see photos below of before, during and after.



SHORELINE PROJECT

LWCD received a cost share agreement for 2019-2020 for a shoreline restoration project. This project has been in the process for the past 7 years, all the while they have lost 70 tons of soil into Petenwell Lake. In 2019, Property Works started the project by putting in an access roadway for equipment for 2020.



STREAM MONITORING



There are many streams throughout the county. It is important to know the physical and chemical properties of these streams so we can help protect our resources. Not only do these streams provide recreation for citizens, but also great habitat for fish, birds, insects, and other animals. During the spring and summer months, staff members use monitoring equipment to gather the information. Some examples of information gathered is daily flow, total nitrogen, & total phosphorus. These variables help us determine which streams are depositing nutrients into the lakes. The stream monitoring project is ongoing and all data is gathered into a DNR database. Stream Monitoring was very limited in 2019 due to the high water levels for most of the season.

ORDINANCES

NON-METALLIC MINING

Adams County currently has 13 mining sites. LWCD administrates and regulates the Non-Metallic Mining (NMM) mines throughout the county. The department has updated and improved a lot within this ordinance and surveys all 13 mine sites every year, monitoring their progress and making sure they meet their plan's needs. LWCD had multiple updates to NMM Plans and are currently in the process of revising and updating our ordinance to fit current State Regulations.



MANURE STORAGE



LWCD has completed a large milk waste and manure storage pit projects. This protects groundwater quality from nutrients and waste seeping in, and also helps prevent surface runoff into streams, ditches and lakes. The department also permitted the installation of a digester facility in the

town of New Chester to capture biogas from cow manure that can be used for energy. This gas would normally just diffuse into the atmosphere and not be used.



DAMS

Dams are controlled and inspected at least three days per week; they were monitored more frequently during storm and runoff events. All dams are used primarily for recreation and flood control with the exception of Big Roche-A-Cri, which is leased to an operating company for electrical generation.

With all the flooding and rainfall that has occurred in 2019, the county owned dams have been thriving. There were multiple maintenance projects throughout the season including clearing trees, brush and woody vegetation on the dams. LWCD contracted out to replace electrical equipment on three of the larger dams in the county and completed weekly water level checks and monthly inspections on all nine dams. Some of the projects on the list for 2020 are to improve interior water flow within the toe drains of the dams and complete a fence on Camelot's lower dam to allow a bike trail on the dyke.



INVASIVE SPECIES



LWCD monitored and mapped the location of Invasive Phragmites in the northern part of the county. The plan is remove them this winter through spring of 2020 if funding becomes available. LWCD is working with Central Wisconsin Invasive Partnership (CWIP), since CWIP focuses on education, outreach, and removal of terrestrial invasive species throughout the region. LWCD has hopes that they will be able to survey more land, find and remove invasive throughout the county.

COUNTY FOREST PROGRAM

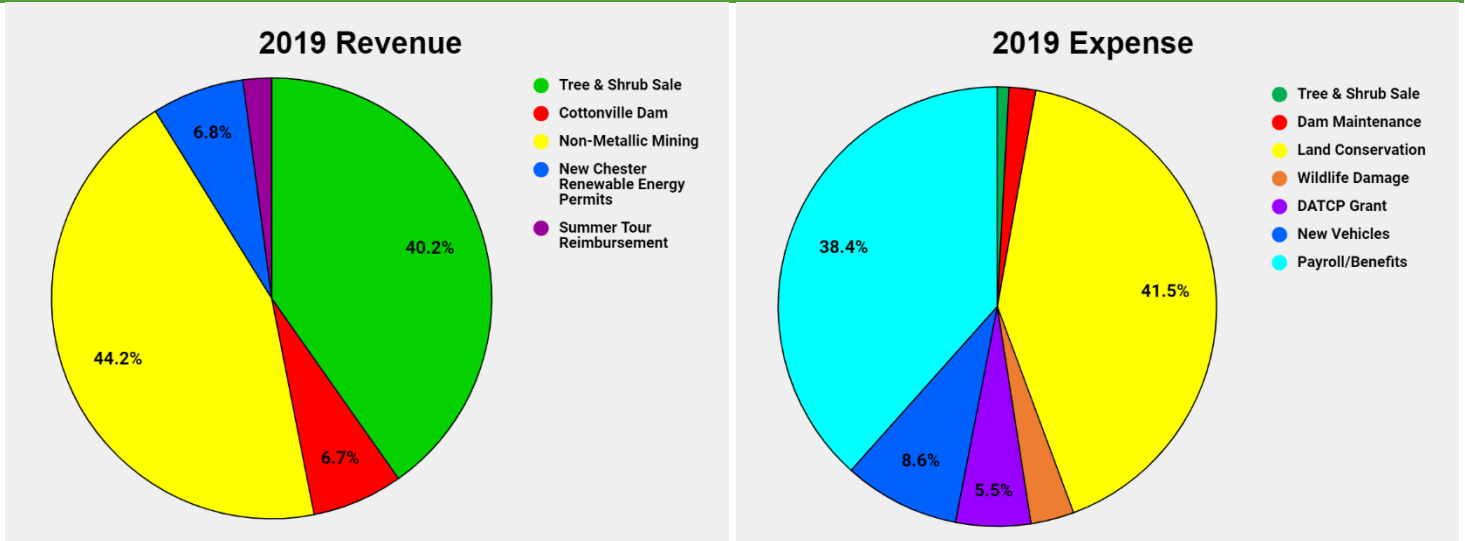
2019 County Board approved some of our county owned land to enter into the County Forest Program. This program is about sustainable forest management and public recreation opportunities. LWCD hopes to further this program and increase the acreage of our County Forest in the future.

TREE & SHRUB SALE

The annual Tree & Shrub Sale had a great turnout on April 26th-27th at the Adams County Fairgrounds. LWCD sold a variety of conifers and deciduous species in bundles of 25. Many traditional species were available such as; pines, firs, spruces, maples, and etc. The DNR Forestry Office provided tree planters to rent for \$20.00 per 1,000 plantings. In total, 92 individuals purchased over 7,000 trees and shrubs. The remainder was donated to the Agriculture class at the Adams-Friendship High School to plant. If you would like more information or have suggestions for future sales, please contact Megan, Conservation Program Coordinator at (608) 339-4268.



BUDGET SUMMARY FOR 2019



UPCOMING PROJECTS/PROGRAMS/EVENTS FOR 2020

YOUTH EDUCATION

FARM AND/OR EARTH DAY FOR KIDS

Adams County 4th graders will go to Wallendal's farm and learn about how they got started and some conservation practices Wallendal's are doing. From there the kids will get a tour of the New Chester Dairy facility.

CONSERVATION DAY

Adams County Land and Water Department puts on a "Conservation Field Day" for Adams County 5th graders. Our goal with this event is so kids can learn about conservation practices, wildlife, soils and waters around Adams County and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Laws.

POSTER CONTEST

2020 Poster Contest theme and winners will be announced in the 2020 Annual Report.

ENVIROTHON

Megan is hoping to get a group of students interested in participating in the WI Envirothon in 2021 with the help of teachers.

WELL TESTING PROGRAM

Well testing program is a plan to get baseline information of Adams County private wells. From there, it will be easier to locate high-risk areas and handle them accordingly.

BEACH MONITORING PROGRAM

Adams County Health Officer, Leah Eckstein and LWCD have implemented a County Beach Monitoring Program, which is designed to inform the beach users when conditions are unsafe to swim at certain beach locations. The program has involved many outreach meetings to inform the public to use their best judgment when using local lakes.

BEACH CLUB GRANT PROJECT

LWCD Staff have inventoried 40+ beach clubs, and Sam is currently working on creating individual plans for each club to distribute to club members. An informational meeting will be held in 2020 regarding our findings and next steps.

DAMS

Improve interior water flow within the toe drains of the dams and complete a fence on the lower Camelot dam allowing a bike trail on the dyke.

CREATED BY: MEGAN STECKELBERG

EDITORS: CHUCK SIBILSKY, KASON MORLEY, SAMUEL PETERSON