



State of Wisconsin

Land and Water Conservation Board

PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
608-224-4622

Land and Water Conservation Board Meeting

February 2, 2016
9:00 a.m.-2:10 p.m.

Boardroom 106
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI

Agenda

*THE LWCB MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA AT
THE SCHEDULED MEETING*

- 9:00 a.m. 1 Call to order—Mark Cupp, LWCB
- a. Pledge of allegiance
 - b. Open meeting notice
 - c. Approval of agenda
 - d. Approval of December 1, 2015 meeting minutes
- 9:30 a.m. 2 Public appearances*
- *Please complete a Public Appearance Request Card and submit it to a DATCP representative before the start of the meeting*
- 9:40 a.m. 3 Election of Officers— Mark Cupp
- 10:00 a.m. 4 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Shawano County—Scott Frank, Shawano County Land Conservation Division
- 10:45 a.m. 5 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Kenosha County—Dan Treloar, Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Department

*Mark Cupp, Chair • Lynn Harrison, Vice-Chair
Members: George Mika • Robin Leary • Dale Hood • Dave Solin
Eric Birschbach • Caitlin Frederick • John Petty • Mary Anne Lowndes*

February 2, 2016, LWCB Meeting Agenda

- 11:30 a.m. 6 LWRM Plan Approvals and Work Plans
- a. Report on revisions to annual work plan requirements
 - b. Revision of LWRM requirements related to work plans, checklist submissions, plan extensions, and five year plan reviews.
— Lisa Trumble and Richard Castelnovo, DATCP
- 12:00 p.m. 7 Lunch Break
- 12:45 p.m. 8 Biennial budget process—Richard Castelnovo, DATCP and MaryAnne Lowndes, DNR
- 1:00 p.m. 9 Planning for Gathering Input from Stakeholders and Public on Funding and Annual Grant— Mark Cupp
- 1:15 p.m. 10 FPP Biennial report—Katy Vosburg, DATCP
- 1:30 a.m. 11 Report and Potential Recommendation on the 2016 CREP Spending Authority
—Brian Loeffelholz, DATCP
- 1:45 p.m. 12 Agency reports
- a. FSA
 - b. NRCS
 - c. UW-CALS
 - d. UW-Extension
 - e. WLWCA
 - f. DATCP*
 - g. DNR*
- *Joint DATCP/DNR grant application for Calendar Year 2016
- 2:05 p.m. 13 Planning for April 2016 Meeting—Mark Cupp, LWCB
- 2:10 p.m. 14 Adjourn

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

December 1, 2015
DATCP Board Room
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of October 6, 2015 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Cupp, George Mika, Dave Solin, Eric Birschbach, Dale Hood, Lynn Harrison, Keith Foye, Caitlin Frederick, and Mary Anne Lowndes were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Kurt Calkins and Jim VandenBrook (WI Land + Water) were present. Others present included Jerry Halverson and Tony Smith, Manitowoc County SWCD; Ken Dolata, Oconto County LCD; Jim McCaulley, Iowa County LCD; John Krell, Rusk County LCDD; Wally Sedlar, Adams County LCD; Fred Heider, North Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Richard Castelnuovo, Lisa Trumble, and Chris Clayton, DATCP.

Clayton confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

Hood moved to approve the agenda as presented, Solin seconded, and the motion carried.

Cupp provided an update on board member status. The board has one vacant position representing a charitable association and one term-expired position representing a city with a population of 50,000 or more. Both positions need to be filled. Cupp asked that anyone interested should contact him.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Manitowoc County

Halverson made a presentation in support of Manitowoc County's LWRM plan revision. (The presentation can be accessed at:

<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/ManitowocCountyPresentation.pdf>)

Halverson reported that the DATCP staff reviewed the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist and found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Halverson highlighted the county's ability to meet goals and activities in its previous 10-year plan, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years. The local and technical advisory committee will meet annually to review plan progress.

Halverson reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned goals and activities.

The following issues were discussed: tillage methods promoting soil health and reducing runoff, water quality concerns related to non-metallic mining, water quality concerns in lakes where agriculture and heavy soils combine to produce significant surface runoff, issues with manure entering groundwater along the water supply pipeline running from Lake Michigan to suburban Green Bay, the use of settling ponds or wetlands at the end of waterways, and the county's winter manure spreading ordinance.

Mika moved to approve Manitowoc County's plan revision as presented, Birschbach seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Dolata made a presentation in support of Oconto County's LWRM plan revision. (The presentation can be accessed at:

<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/OcontoCountyPresentation.pdf>)

Dolata reported that the DATCP staff reviewed the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist and found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Dolata highlighted the county's ability to meet goals and activities in its previous 10-year plan, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years. Dolata reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned goals and activities.

The following issues were discussed: the possibility of phosphorus trading as a means to help fund the county, beginning conversations with the Little Saumico Sanitary District and a local paper company, discussions with the Land Conservation Committee about adding staff.

Solin moved to approve Oconto County's plan revision as presented, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #5 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Columbia County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Calkins made a presentation in support of Columbia County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at:

<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/ColumbiaCountyPresentation.pdf>)

Calkins highlighted the county's progress in meeting planned goals and activities, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years.

Calkins reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and the county submitted an updated work plan that covers planned goals and activities during the five year extension period.

The following issues were discussed: the LWCD's commitment to large scale TRM projects; the use of a G-Flow Groundwater Model and LRS based tracking; the status of the City of Lodi Adaptive Management project; nutrient management planning; the benefits of working with the Lake Wisconsin Alliance to communicate issues relating to poor water quality, nonpoint source pollution, and managing expectations.

Mika moved to approve Columbia County's 5-year extension request as presented, Solin seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision for Iowa County

McCaulley made a presentation in support of Iowa County's LWRM plan revision. (The presentation can be accessed at: <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/IowaCountyPresentation.pdf>)

McCaulley reported that the DATCP staff reviewed the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist and found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

McCaulley highlighted the county's ability to meet goals and activities in its previous 10-year plan, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years. McCaulley reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned goals and activities.

The following issues were discussed: the loss of CRP acres resulting in an increase in crop acres over the past several years; tillage and residue management as a means of not backsliding on erosion and nutrient losses; groundwater testing and planning; potential for enacting an ordinance to address manure spreading in winter, and acreage of farmland having nutrient management plans.

Hood moved to approve Iowa County's plan revision as presented, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #8 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision for Rusk County

Krell made a presentation in support of Rusk County's LWRM plan revision. (The presentation can be accessed at: <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/RuskCountyPresentation.pdf>)

Krell reported that the DATCP staff reviewed the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist and found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Krell highlighted the county's ability to meet goals and activities in its previous 10-year plan, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years. Krell reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned goals and activities.

The following issues were discussed: the department has combined with zoning and land information; farmland coming out of production because of parcels being turned into deer hunting grounds, population projections in the county, and the establishment of two new hog farms just under 1,000 animal units.

Mika moved to approve Rusk County's plan revision as presented, Birschbach seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #9 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision for Adams County

Sedlar and Heider made a presentation in support of Adams County's LWRM plan revision. (The presentation can be accessed at: <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/AdamsCountyPresentation.pdf>)

Sedlar reported that the DATCP staff reviewed the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist and found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Sedlar highlighted the county's ability to meet goals and activities in its previous 10-year plan, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years. Sedlar reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned goals and activities.

The following issues were discussed: buy-in for planting cover crops; large conversions of forestland to agricultural land; Adams County would like to participate in CREP, and attempts to halt large-scale land conversions through zoning.

Mika moved to approve Adams County's plan revision as presented, Hood seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #10 Procedures for 2016 Election of LWCB Officers

Cupp stated that changes to the bylaws dispense with a nominating committee. Instead, the board will take nominations from the floor at the next LWCB meeting for the positions of chair, vice-chair, and secretary.

Item #11 Approval of proposed 2016 LWCB Annual Agenda

Clayton and Trumble presented the 2016 LWCB Annual Agenda, which proposes meeting dates on February 2, April 5, June 7, August 2, October 4, and December 6, 2016.

The board discussed having a standing 15 minute slot to devote to board member education, or presenting issues relevant to Land and Water Conservation matters. Examples include the state

budgeting process, nonpoint program funding, nine key elements planning, CAFO permitting, and Wisconsin Land & Water information regarding a potential Legislative Council study on future nonpoint program funding. The board agreed that an overview of the state budget process, together with information on the environmental fund, should be placed on the February meeting agenda.

Item #12 Agency reports

WLWCA – VandenBrook reported that youth education is a priority for WLWCA. Recently, WLWCA contracted with Discover Media to develop a four-segment video on solutions to water pollution. One segment focuses on the successful nonpoint pollution reduction project in Pleasant Valley. Each of the four video segments will be used to develop curriculum that will be available to high school teachers throughout the state.

DATCP – Foye reported that the producer-led watershed grants will be made available in 2016. The total amount for the program is \$250,000, which was carved out of the SEG fund appropriated for cost-sharing nutrient management plans and soft practices supporting nutrient management. The department will utilize an emergency rule to implement the first round of the grant program beginning in January 2016, as well as the second round of grants later in 2016. DATCP will complete a permanent rule to apply to funding from the next biennial budget. DATCP and FSA are working on CREP enrollment guidance given the expiration of numerous 15-year CREP agreements on September 30, 2016. A CREP item may be placed on the February LWCB meeting agenda.

DNR – Lowndes reported that the department is working on grant applications and getting ready to post an announcement of the next granting cycle. Urban nonpoint source pollution grants will be made available every other year. In January 2016, DNR will post urban construction grants, and urban planning grants will be posted in 2017. DNR will continue to make TRM grants available every year.

Item #13 Planning for February 2016 Meeting – Mark Cupp, LWCB

- Report and recommendations on the 2016 CREP spending authority.
- Overview of the state budget process, together with information on the environmental fund.

Item #14 Adjourn

Mika moved to adjourn, Solin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Birschbach, Secretary

Date

Recorder: CRC, DATCP

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: January 19, 2016

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Keith Foye, DATCP *Keith Foye*
Bureau of Land and Water Resource Management

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the Shawano County Land and Water Resource Management Plan meets ATCP 50 requirements and requests that the LWCB make a recommendation regarding approval of the plan consistent with applicable criteria and guidance.

Summary: The plan is written as a 10 year plan, and addresses one or more of the criteria demonstrating intent for a 10 year plan. If approved, the plan would remain in effect through December 31, 2026, and would be subject to a five year review prior to December 31, 2021.

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

Shawano County held a public hearing on January 7, 2016, as part of its public input and review process. The Shawano County Land and Water 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
- Shawano County Land and Water Resource Management Plan Summary, including workplan and budget

Presenters: Scott Frank, Shawano County Conservationist



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

Sec. 92.10, Stats. & sec. ATCP 50.12, Wis. Adm. Code

County: Shawano

Date Plan Submitted for Review: October 1, 2015

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
1. Did the county convene a local advisory committee that included a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives (such as affected landowners, partner organizations, government officials, educational institutions)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7,8
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.	5/19,7/21& 8/25		
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan. ¹	1/7/16		
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	02/24/16		
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. an estimate of the soil erosion rates for the whole county and for local areas where erosion rates are especially high	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	24
ii. identification of key soil erosion problem areas in the county	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28-42
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			
i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27, appendix C

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28-42
iii.	identification of key water quality problem areas in the county	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17,34-37
2.	Does the LWRM plan address objectives by including the following:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
a.	specific water quality objectives identified for each watershed based upon the resource assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16,17,28-42
b.	pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A, 27
3.	Does the plan or related documentation reflect that the county consulted with DNR ⁴ to provide 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34-37

Other comments:

IV. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION		Yes	No	Page
1.	Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation strategies:			
a.	A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage farm conservation practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46-49
b.	State and local regulations used to implement the plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46-50 62-64
c.	Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48
d.	Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address key water quality and erosion problems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49-50
e.	Strategy to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	63
2.	Does the LWRM plan (or accompanying work plan) estimate cost-sharing and other financial assistance, and technical assistance needed for plan implementation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61

⁴ While requirements for DNR consultation may be satisfied by including relevant DNR representatives on the advisory committee, counties may also need to interact with DNR staff in central or regional offices to meet all of the consultation requirements. DNR may point counties to other resources to obtain information including consultants who can calculate pollutant load reduction targets.

3. Does the LWRM plan describe a priority farm strategy designed to make reasonable progress in implementing state performance standards and conservation practices on farms appropriately classified as a priority?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46-47
4. Was DNR consulted about the county's plan for NR 151 implementation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46

Other comments:

V. 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, including an estimate of the amount of I& E needed for plan implementation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43,58, work plan
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chap.7 & Work Plan

Other comments: _____

VI. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the county's work plan do all of the following:			
a. Cover more than one year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7, 8 Work Plan
b. Identify priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	51, Work Plan
c. Provide measurable annual and multi-year performance benchmarks (for at least all high priority items)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Plan
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	51, 73-75

Other comments:

VII. EPA SECTION 319 CONSIDERATIONS
1. DOES THIS PLAN INCLUDE ELEMENTS <u>CONSISTENT</u> WITH THE MINIMUM 9 KEY ELEMENTS FOR EPA APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 319 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT: N/A
2. IF THE ANSWER TO 1 IS "YES," WHAT IS THE STATUS OF EPA'S REVIEW OF THE PLAN:

NOT SUBMITTED _____ SUBMITTED BUT NOT APPROVED _____ APPROVED _____

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: Jan. 15, 2016

Shawano County
Land and Water Resource Management Plan

February 2016

Shawano County
Land Conservation Committee

Kathy Luebke – Chairman
Marvin Klosterman – Vice Chairman
Randy Young – Secretary
Robert Krause – Member
Arlyn Tober – Member
Alan Tauchen – Member (appointed by FSA)

County Conservationist
Scott M. Frank

Cover Page Credits: Scott M. Frank, Christa Hoffman and Matt Heindel

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Plan Summary

The purpose of this plan is to establish a process that will ensure local decision making, increase program delivery mechanisms and utilize local, state and federal funds with greater effectiveness toward the protection of land and water resources. This 10 year plan was developed in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 92 of Wisconsin Statutes and has been organized into the following chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Plan Development and Public Participation
- Chapter 2 – County Setting, Assessment of Water Quality and Resource Conditions
- Chapter 3 – Performance Standards and Prohibitions
- Chapter 4 – Goals, Objectives and Actions
- Chapter 5 – Regulations for Plan Implementation
- Chapter 6 – Information & Education Strategy
- Chapter 7 – Coordination
- Chapter 8 – Monitoring and Evaluation
- APPENDICES - A: Glossary
 - B: Best Management Practice Definitions
 - C: Maps
 - D: Public Hearing Notice

Chapter 1. Plan Development and Public Participation

This chapter details the reasons and process of developing the Shawano County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The members of the County Land Conservation Committee and the staff of the Land Conservation Department (LCD) place a very high value on the guidance and insight they receive from citizens, organizations and representatives from other agencies and units of government. Previous Shawano County Land & Water plans were the foundation of this plan. Assisting in the development of this plan was a Citizen Advisory Committee that included a variety of natural resource professionals, county committee members and interested citizens representing riparian owners, farming and conservation.

The Shawano County Land Conservation Committee held a public hearing on January 7, 2016 which was preceded by a published class II notice.

A presentation of the plan was given to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) on February 2, 2016.

This Land and Water Resource Management Plan was reviewed and approved by the Shawano County Board of Supervisors on _____, 2016.

An order letter was issued on _____, 2016 from WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) adopting the plan.

Chapter 2. County Setting, Assessment of Water Quality and Resource Conditions

This chapter provides an overview of Shawano County including some general characteristics, a historical timeline, natural resources, land use trends, soil loss and land & water resource conditions in each watershed.

Chapter 3 – Performance Standards and Prohibitions

Chapter NR 151 Wisconsin Administrative Code sets forth state minimum performance standards and prohibitions for farms and urban areas. This chapter lists them and details implementation of the performance standards and prohibitions which were designed to achieve water quality standards by limiting nonpoint source water pollution.

Chapter 4 – Goals, Objectives and Actions

This chapter covers the overall goals, objectives and strategies to implement during the plans' ten year timeframe. They were developed based on recommendations of the Citizen Advisory Committee, technical advisors and analysis of existing conditions in Shawano County. A Work Plan, in table format, lists the specific goals, objectives, strategies, activities, measurable outcomes with some target benchmarks and responsible party. The Work Plan is a working document that will have local review annually for progress and revised as needed. After five years, a scheduled review and update of this plan will occur with DATCP and LWCB. An implementation budget estimate for the Work Plan is included at the end of the chapter.

Chapter 5 – Regulations for Plan Implementation

This chapter identifies state and local regulations important for the protection of natural resources to be utilized for plan implementation. The Shawano County Livestock Waste Management Ordinance has provisions for Livestock Siting and incorporated some of the state performance standards and prohibitions.

Chapter 6 – Information and Education Strategy

This chapter discusses the importance of the Information & Education component to the success in reaching the plan goals and objectives. Throughout the Work Plan specific areas and activities have been identified on which topics education is needed in the community. Local partnerships are necessary in order to provide the greatest reach throughout the county.

Chapter 7 – Coordination

Managing the county's natural resources is a team effort, and we rely on many partners for assistance and support. The goals, objectives, strategies and activities outlined by this plan will be achieved primarily through integrating them with continued or enhanced implementation of available local, state and federal programs. This chapter identifies those programs along with how and where they may be utilized.

Chapter 8 – Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the success of the Land & Water Resource Management Plan, regular evaluation is important. This plan is a working document that will be reviewed annually to track progress in accomplishing the goals, objectives and activities in the Work Plan. Areas discussed include: Performance Standards and Prohibitions Monitoring, Pollutant Load Reduction Measurements, Administrative Reporting, Water Resource Monitoring and I & E Evaluation.

Chapter 1 – Plan Development and Public Participation

Public and political demands have changed the approach in the ongoing battle for improvement and protection of land, water, and related natural resources in Wisconsin. This is particularly true of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program. In response to the call for a “redesign” of the Nonpoint Program, the Wisconsin Legislature has created a Land and Water Resource Management Planning Program. 1997 Wisconsin Act 27 and 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, amending Chapter 92 of Wisconsin Statutes was the enabling legislation for the development and “official” recognition of County Land & Water Resource Management Plans. This is the process that provides for a comprehensive analysis of countywide land and water resource issues and needs. County Land Conservation Committees and their Land Conservation Departments are an integral part of this process. Shawano County considers this as an opportunity to strengthen landowner participation, improve program effectiveness and increase coordination with other cooperating ‘partners’ involved in natural resource management.

The purpose of this plan is to establish a process that will ensure local decision making, increase program delivery mechanisms and utilize local, state and federal funds with greater effectiveness toward the protection of land and water resources. In developing this Land & Water Resource Management Plan it was important to review past goals and objectives identified through similar efforts that were based on extensive public participation. It is equally important to recognize that most of the resource issues and concerns that have been identified in the past are still with us. The magnitude and scope of those issues and concerns may have changed, but the hard fact is they still exist. As our population increases, so do the demands and pressures on our resources. Our challenge is to make the right decisions and take the necessary actions in order to reach and maintain a critical balance between societal growth, without destroying our natural resources.

Shawano County first developed a Land & Water Resource Management Plan in 2000 and completed updates in 2004 and 2009. This Land & Water Resource Management Plan is an improved and updated guide that builds upon past works in order to help carry out a true integrated process. It also serves to complete needed watershed based nonpoint source pollution abatement in Shawano County during the next 10 years.

Local Advisory Committee & Adoption

The members of the County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) and the staff of the Land Conservation Department place a very high value on the guidance and insight they receive from citizens, organizations, and representatives from other agencies and units of government. Prior planning efforts (1999, 2004, and 2009) included a Citizen Advisory Committee and a Local Work Group. For this plan update these two entities were combined and was called the Land & Water Plan Citizen Advisory Committee. The Citizen Advisory Committee was made up of representatives from the local Land Conservation Department, Land Conservation Committee, Planning & Zoning Committee, County Planning and Development Department, Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Extension, United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency Committee, Shawano Area Waterways Management, Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe and Caroline Conservation Club. They were as follows:

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Scott M. Frank	Land Conservation Dept.
Christa Hoffman	Planning, Development & Zoning Dept.
Jamie Patton	UWEX Agricultural Agent
Erin E. Hanson	DNR Nonpoint Source Coordinator
Sherrie Zenk-Reed	NRCS Tribal Liaison
Kathy Luebke	Land Conservation Committee
Randy Young	Land Conservation Committee
Marlin Noffke	Planning, Development & Zoning Committee
Al Tauchen	LCC and USDA - Farm Service Agency – Shawano
Ray Zuelke	Shawano Area Waterways Management
Randall Wollenhaup	Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe – Wildlife Biologist
Todd Malueg	Caroline Conservation Club

The Land & Water Plan Citizen Advisory Committee (LWPCAC) met three times (5/19/15, 7/21/15, and 8/25/15). This committee utilized a 10 year planning timeframe while reviewing the Plan and making recommendations for updating goals, objectives and actions. A public hearing on the Plan was held on January 7, 2016 at the Shawano County Land Conservation Committee meeting. See copy of public hearing notice in Appendix D. The Land Conservation Committee approved the Plan and recommended forwarding it on to the state Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) for review at their February 2, 2016 meeting. The Plan will be presented to the Shawano County Board of Supervisors at their February 24, 2016 meeting.

Public Opinion

The 2009 Land & Water Resource Management Plan update coincided with creation of the Shawano County Comprehensive Plan which was adopted by the County Board January 29, 2009. As a result of the input from the general public through surveys, focus groups at informational meetings and public hearings for the Comprehensive Planning process it was quite obvious that the people of Shawano County care about the natural resources but also value their independence and private property rights very highly. It is critical to balance both of these aspects in order to have new rules accepted. One of the overall county Comprehensive Plan goals is to “Preserve and enhance the County’s natural features, including lakes, rivers, forests, wetlands, wildlife habitats, open spaces and groundwater resources”.

The Shawano County Farmland Preservation Plan was updated and re-certified in 2013 and integrated into the Shawano County Comprehensive Plan. As a result of the input from the general public through town focus groups, informational meetings and public hearings for this planning process it was quite obvious that the people of Shawano County care about agriculture and forestry. A primary goal is to “Preserve large tracts of contiguous productive crop, pasture, and forest land, and farming and forestry as a central component of Shawano County’s economy and way of life”. Shawano County’s working lands define not only the economy of the area, but the heritage and lifestyle of many parts of the County. Preserving agricultural land uses and a rural way of life are important components of the future vision for the County.

The general public was provided opportunities to comment on the Plan. There were no written or oral comments given at the public hearing held on January 7, 2016.

Related Resource Management Plans

In developing this Land and Water Resource Management Plan, issues, concerns, needs, goals and objectives from many existing natural resource management plan documents were reviewed. All of those documents are listed in the References section of this Plan. There are a number of key documents with specific data, observations and objectives that served a larger role as they relate to this Plan. These include:

- Shawano County Comprehensive Plan (2013)
- Shawano County Farmland Preservation Plan (2013)
- Shawano County Forest Stewardship Management Plan (2013)
- Shawano County Invasive Species Strategic Management Plan (2013)
- Upper Green Bay Basin Integrated Management Plan (2001)
- State of the Wolf Basin Report (2001)
- Pensaukee River Priority Watershed Plan (1997)
- Shawano County Erosion Control Plan (1987)
- Shawano County Animal Waste Management Plan (1985)
- Shawano County Long Range Resource Conservation Plan (1979)

It is important to recognize that these documents were developed with a great deal of public participation. Many of the concerns, ideas, and recommendations voiced by those people are incorporated in this document.

Basin Team Coordination

In each basin (Upper Green Bay and Wolf River) the DNR had established Partner Teams comprised of representatives from sporting groups, local governments, Conservation Congress, environmental groups, etc. These Partner Teams were created to foster collaborative thinking and management of each basin's resources.

The Department of Natural Resources is also responsible for creating a Basin Plan for each basin in the state. A new basin plan development process has been created that provides an analysis of the current status of resources in each basin (state of the basin report). The county has every intention of protecting and improving resources as a means to help meet the goals of these respective basin plans. Available basin plan information has been reviewed to ensure that this resource management plan does not contradict those efforts. It is our belief that our ongoing efforts to protect and improve our resources will help us all reach our mutual goals.

Partnership Team and Basin Priorities

Upper Green Bay Basin:

The Upper Green Bay Basin Partnership Team is currently composed of fifteen members. First convened in October of 1998 the Team has identified and prioritized the present and future threats to the natural resources of the basin. Facilitated sessions were conducted to complete this task and forty issues were listed. A voting process was undertaken to select the top ten. The top ten are listed below.

1. Shoreline Development
2. Non-Point Source Pollution and Resource Education (tied)
3. User Conflicts

4. Special Interests, Money and Politics
5. Habitat Loss and Fragmentation of Habitat
6. Retaining the Rural Character of the Northwoods
7. Impacts of Human Population Growth
8. Industrial and Municipal Discharges to Surface Waters
9. Inadequate Zoning and Zoning Enforcement
10. Lack of Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Mechanisms to Guide implementation

Wolf River Basin:

Priorities for action have been identified by both the WDNR and its partnership team. The partnership team has identified four main priorities or issues of concern along with a series of recommendations.

The four priority areas are:

1. Water Pollution
2. Loss of Shoreline Habitat
3. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Recreational Uses
4. Need for an Inventory of Basin Resources

The DNR Wolf Basin Team shares these concerns and has identified its own top priorities as well:

1. Preservation and protection of wetlands
2. Preventing the introduction and reducing the spread of invasive exotic species
3. Pressures from development
4. Land use and 'Smart Growth'

Work Plan

Goal: Promote land use practices that maintain or improve soil, water, habitat quality and quantity while supporting a viable and diverse economic base.

Objective 1: Increase nutrient management to promote the efficient and effective management of nutrients on private lands.			
Strategy	Activity	Measurable Outcome & Target Benchmarks	Responsible Party
1. Increase number of acres with nutrient management plans to 65% of cropland acres over next 10 years.	1. Work with partner agencies and nutrient management planners to promote the development and implementation of nutrient management plans	Have updated list of certified crop consultants available for distribution; Number of landowner contacts made (50 contacts per year)	UWEX, LCD, DATCP, NRCS, DNR
	2. Work with nutrient management planners, partner agencies and landowners to encourage annual reporting of Nutrient Management Plan checklists to Land Conservation Department.	Number of acres reported increasing each year (Average 1,000 additional acres/year)	LCD, DATCP, UWEX, DNR, NRCS
	3. Follow up with farmers who have received County cost-sharing or a Shawano County Livestock Waste Management permit and have not filed a nutrient management plan checklist	Number of letters, phone calls, and on farm visits; Number of nutrient management plan checklists still to be received (10-25 contacts per year)	LCD
	4. Annually apply for and utilize Nutrient Management Cost Share funding from State	State grant funding awarded and percent of cost share fund utilized in a year.	LCD
	5. Promote cost sharing opportunities for Nutrient Management Plans through individual contacts, UWEX newsletter, and county web page.	Number of new signups in various programs; annual newsletter article; web page update	LCD, NRCS, UWEX
	6. Provide training for agricultural producers to develop and update nutrient management plans.	Annual training workshop; 5 new participants	LCD, UWEX, DATCP

2. Implement Priority Farm Strategy outlined in Chapter 3 for compliance with Performance Standards and Prohibitions identified in NR 151.	1. Conduct site visits and/or reviews of 80-100 farms annually; verify 590 nutrient management plan checklist has been submitted	Document the number of farm visits and/or reviews and status of plan compliance for annual DATCP reporting (25% of FPP participants; 5 complaints; 20 Livestock Waste Management Ordinance; 5 for cost share assistance)	LCD
	2. Work with Wisconsin DNR to coordinate farmer compliance with NR 151 standards and prohibitions	Completed MOU with DNR. Document the number of non-compliance violations coordinated with the WI DNR (5 farms per year)	LCD, DNR
3. Provide technical assistance for waste storage facilities or feedlot runoff control practices.	1. Assist farms with manure management planning, design, construction, improvements, or closures	5 to 10 farms assisted per year	LCD, NRCS
	2. Provide current technical, management and regulatory education to farmers in regards to manure handling, storage and application.	Number of landowners assisted, events and notifications (inform 50 – 100 landowners per year; one-two events and/or notices)	LCD, NRCS, DNR, DATCP, UWEX
	3. Work with NRCS, DATCP and WI DNR to review permitting and compliance requirements	Number of manure management BMP's designed and approved	LCD, NRCS, DATCP, DNR
4. Increase landowner participation in County, State and Federal conservation programs over next 10 years.	1. Work with partner agencies to provide education on conservation programming and encourage participation.	Number of education session held, contacts made, new practices added and new program participants	LCD, NRCS, DNR, UWEX
	2. Work with Maple Grove AEA to increase farmland preservation agreements and promote the AEA	Hold meetings with AEA stakeholder group; number of contacts made, new agreements signed and promotion items implemented	PDZ, LCD, DATCP, MG AEA
5. Continue to seek funding to provide cost-share assistance for eligible costs related to nutrient management planning	1. Pursue and secure funding opportunities through various state and federal programs	Number of grant applied for/awarded; Participate in NE Farm & Forest Local Workgroup for EQIP funding priorities	LCD, NRCS
6. Provide nutrient management education to non-farm landowners.	1. Work with UWEX and DNR to offer nutrient management education to lake organizations each year.	Number of education sessions held; number of participants	LCD, UWEX, DNR,

	2. Inform contractors, developers and citizens about non-agricultural performance standards	Number of contacts made or education sessions held	UWEX, LCD, DNR
Objective 2: Reduce soil erosion			
Strategy	Activity	Measurable Outcome & Target Benchmarks	Responsible Party
1. Evaluate soil loss on an annual basis to establish baseline data.	1. Conduct annual Tillage Transect Survey	Complete Tillage Transect Survey and Soil Loss Data Reports annually	LCD
2. Provide technical assistance and cost sharing (if available) to landowners to implement Best Management Practices (BMP's)	1. Offer technical assistance and cost sharing to landowners as requested.	Offer technical assistance and/or cost sharing to 5–25 landowners per year	NRCS, LCD, UWEX
		5–25 BMP's implemented per year	NRCS, LCD
	2. Promote BMP's (cover crops, min-till, buffers, field borders, etc.) through educational events, one-on-one farm visits and information on county webpage	Number of contacts made (50-100 per year), education events held (one or two per year), BMP's installed (5-25 per year), county webpage (add 2-5 articles or links per year)	LCD, UWEX, NRCS, DNR
	3. Educate landowners on soil erosion performance standards through priority farm strategy, informational meetings and documents on webpage	Contact and make site visits with 75 landowners annually; add soil loss BMP's on LCD webpage (2-5 articles or links per year); other events (one or two per year)	LCD, UWEX, NRCS
	4. Conservation Planning and compliance checks on Highly Erodible Land (HEL) for provisions of the Food Security Act	Number of conservation plans updated and compliance checks completed	NRCS
3. Restore streambanks through voluntary efforts and programs	1. Promote shoreline and streambank BMP's through educational events, site visits and information on county webpage	Number of contacts made, education events held, BMP's installed	NRCS, LCD, UWEX, DNR

Objective 3: Restoration of shoreland and wetlands			
Strategy	Activity	Measurable Outcome & Target Benchmarks	Responsible Party
1. Recruit lakeshore property owners to participate in state Healthy Lakes initiative and County program.	1. Promote establishment of rain gardens, native buffers, and runoff diversions	Number of educational session held (one or two per year), contacts made (10-50 per year), practices installed (1-3 per year), county webpage (add 2-5 articles or links per year)	LCD, DNR, UWEX, LO, UW Lakes, NRCS
	2. Work with partners to provide education on benefits of Healthy Lakes practices	Number of educational sessions held, contacts made, practices installed; 10% of lakeshore properties in Shawano County implement projects	LCD, DNR, UWEX, LO, UW Lakes, NRCS
	3. Promote county, state and federal programs to assist landowners with technical and financial assistance	Contacts made, Annual article in UWEX newsletter; Create and update a webpage on Land Conservation Department web site; inform attendees at other educational events	LCD, DNR, UWEX, UW Lakes, NRCS, LO
2. Improve riparian habitat	1. Promote and educate on riparian BMP's	Number of contacts made (10-50 per year), education events held (one or two per year), BMP's installed (1-2 per year); info on County webpage (add 1-2 articles or links per year)	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, PDZ, DNR, USFWS
	2. Restore streambanks through voluntary efforts and programs	Number of contacts made, BMP's installed	LCD, NRCS, PDZ, DNR, USFWS
3. Provide technical assistance to Best Management Practices	1. Offer technical assistance to farmers and landowners if available or refer to private consultant	Number contacts made	LCD, NRCS, PDZ, DNR, USFWS
		Number of projects or acres implemented	LCD, NRCS, DNR, USFWS
4. Inventory wetlands to identify restoration opportunities	1. Collaborate with local governments and non-profits on inventory methods, evaluation and setting priorities	Number of technical assistance consultations	LCD, NRCS, PDZ, DNR, USFWS

	2. Work with governments and non-profits to quantify wetland gains and losses in the county	Network created to enable annual reporting	LCD, NRCS, PDZ, DNR, USFWS, Towns, DOT, Cty Hwy
	3. Promote alternative practices to improve wetlands or construct wetlands (tile outlets, WASCOB, etc.)	Install a demonstration project and hold educational event	UWEX, LCD, NRCS, DNR, USFWS
Objective 4: Reduce Phosphorus loading			
Strategy	Activity	Measurable Outcome & Target Benchmarks	Responsible Party
1. Focus on Best Management Practices (BMP's) for farmsteads	1. Promote county, state and federal programs to assist landowners with technical and financial assistance	Contacts made (50-150 per year), article in UWEX newsletter (1-2 per year); Create and update a info on Land Conservation Department web site (1-4 articles per year) and links to other partner websites (1-5 per year); inform attendees at other educational events (1-4 per year)	LCD, NRCS, DNR, UWEX
	2. Promote farmstead BMP's through educational events, one-on-one farm visits and information on county webpage	Contacts made (50-150 per year), article in UWEX newsletter (1-2 per year); Create and update a info on Land Conservation Department web site (1-4 articles per year) and links to other partner websites (1-5 per year); inform attendees at other educational events (1-4 per year)	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DNR
	3. Enforce County Livestock Waste Management Ordinance and provide technical assistance to landowners	Technical assistance or consultations provided (5-10 per year)	LCD, NRCS, DNR, UWEX
		Number of BMP's implemented (3-5 per year); Number of permits issued (15-30 per year)	LCD, NRCS, DNR, UWEX

	4. Promote positive efforts of farmers to reduce runoff pollution	Recognition of Soil & Water Conservation Farmer Award recipient at annual county Agricultural Awards Banquet (one presentation per year)	LCD, NRCS, UWEX
2. Through nutrient management planning and implementation	1. Work with partner agencies and nutrient management planners to promote the development and implementation of nutrient management plans	Number of new signups in various programs (3-5 per year); UWEX newsletter article (1-2 per year); keep nutrient management info current on county webpage	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DATCP
	2. Work with landowners to meet Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions	Contacts made (50-100 per year), technical assistance provided (5-10 per year), BMP's implemented (3-5 per year)	LCD, NRCS, DNR, UWEX
3. Prepare for, explore opportunities of and utilize Upper Fox - Wolf Watershed TMDL	1. Work with DNR on development of TMDL	Participation in requests from DNR	DNR, LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DATCP
	2. Determine role of Land Conservation Department in TMDL implementation and focus 9-Key Element planning on impaired watersheds	Meetings with partners held, opportunities identified	LCD, DNR, NRCS,

Objective 5: Improve Groundwater quality			
Strategy	Activity	Measurable Outcome & Target Benchmarks	Responsible Party
1. Protect groundwater from contamination	1. Identify and inventory direct conduits to groundwater	Consulted partners and developed procedure by end of 2017	LCD, NRCS, DNR, TNC
		Determined priority locations for identification and conduct inventory by end of 2019	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DNR
	2. Offer technical assistance and cost sharing for well decommissioning	Number of landowners technical assistance or consultation provided (5-10 per year)	NRCS, LCD, UWEX, DNR
		Number of well decommissions implemented (1-3 wells per year)	NRCS, LCD, UWEX, DNR
	3. Promote county, state and federal programs to assist landowners with technical and financial assistance	Contacts made, Annual article in UWEX newsletter; Create and update a webpage on Land Conservation Department web site; inform attendees at other educational events	NRCS, LCD, SMHD, UWEX, DNR
	4. Promote well water testing	Number of contacts made, education events held, wells tested; information on County webpage	LCD, SMHD, UWEX, DNR, NRCS,
	5. Education and implementation of NR 151 and 590 standard	Contact and make site visits with 75 landowners annually; create and update LCD webpage; Contacts at other events throughout the year	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DNR
2. Increase water quality monitoring of groundwater resources	1. Pursue and secure funding opportunities for well water testing	Inquiries made; Number of grants applied for/awarded	LCD, UWEX
	2. Work with state and local partners to create and maintain a database of private wells and well water testing data	Contacts made, information obtained, database developed	UWEX, LCD

Objective 6: Control invasive species and increase pollinator habitat			
Strategy	Activity	Measurable Outcome & Target Benchmarks	Responsible Party
1. Manage aquatic and terrestrial invasive species	1. Coordinate programming and activities with Timberland Invasive Partnership	Educational events (2-5 per year), one-on-one contact with landowners (5-10 per year), contact with groups (2-5 per year)	LCD, TIP, LO
	2. Implementation of Shawano County Invasive Species Management Plan	Actions worked on or completed in plan	LCD, TIP, LO, DNR, CHD
	3. Work with county lake organizations (Districts, Associations, etc.) and WI DNR to: develop and implement lake management plans; actively participate in WI DNR Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) monitoring program; form a county/area wide waterways association; attend WI Lake Leaders Institute	Meetings attended; issues addressed; letters of support provided; number of lakes with lake management plans; number of public access lakes with trained CBCW monitors; formation of county/area wide waterways association by 2017; 5 additional lakes attend WI Lake Leaders Institute by 2026	LO, DNR, LCD, TIP
2. Increase pollinator habitat	1. Work with partners to promote opportunities and participation in EQIP	Number of contacts made, education events held, BMP's installed; information on County webpage	NRCS, LCD, UWEX, DNR
	2. Work with partners to promote native wildflower plantings	Number of contacts made, education events held, BMP's installed; information on County webpage	UWEX, NRCS, LCD, DNR, LO

Objective 7: Improve woodlands			
Strategy	Activity	Measurable Outcome & Target Benchmarks	Responsible Party
1. Promote proper forestry management BMP's	1. Implementation of the Shawano County Forest Stewardship Management Plan	Implement annual planned activities in 25 year (2013-2038) plan	LCD
	2. Encourage landowners to consult professional foresters (DNR, Town, City, Private)	Number of contacts and referrals made	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DNR
	3. Promote use of county owned tree planters	Number of contacts made and tree plater rentals; information on County webpage	LCD, DNR
	4. Work with partners to promote opportunities and participation in various forestry programs	Number of contacts made, education events held, BMP's installed; information on County webpage	NRCS, LCD, UWEX, DNR
	5. Promote positive efforts of others in forest management	Recognition of Tree Farmer Award recipient at annual county Agricultural Awards Banquet; Submit nominations for other agency or organization awards	DNR, LCD
	6. Provide information and education on invasive species	Number of contacts made, education events held, information on County webpage	NRCS, LCD, UWEX, DNR, TIP

Acronyms:	
CHD - Shawano County Highway Department	PDZ - Shawano County Planning, Development & Zoning Department
DATCP - Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection	SMHD - Shawano/Menominee Health Department
DNR - Department of Natural Resources	TIP - Timberland Invasives Partnership
DOT - Department of Transportation	TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load
LCD - Shawano County Land Conservation Department	TNC - The Nature Conservancy
LO - Lake Organizations	USFWS - United States Fish & Wildlife Service
MG AEA - Maple Grove Agricultural Enterprise Area Workgroup	UW Lakes - University Wisconsin Extension Lakes
NRCS - Natural Resource Conservation Service	UWEX - University of Wisconsin Extension

Implementation Budget Estimate

An annual estimated budget for the 2016-2026 work plan is outlined here. In estimating the budget, it is presumed that the county will continue to staff the Land Conservation Department at its current (2016) level of 3.5 persons. It is further presumed that DATCP and DNR will maintain their financial support for staffing of local conservation personnel and projects. The amounts in the DNR column are staff support costs for the Wildlife Damage, Abatement and Claims Program and technical assistance staff support costs for Targeted Runoff Management grant projects. The amounts in the cost share column are for DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management grants and Targeted Runoff Management grants.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>DATCP</u>	<u>DNR</u>	<u>COST SHARE</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
2016	\$ 129,400	\$ 111,500	\$ 7,700	\$ 176,640	\$ 425,240
2017	\$ 133,500	\$ 113,200	\$ 4,800	\$ 186,500	\$ 438,000
2018	\$ 140,400	\$ 110,000	\$ 4,900	\$ 36,500	\$ 291,800
2019	\$ 144,800	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 36,500	\$ 296,300
2020	\$ 145,600	\$ 110,000	\$ 8,100	\$ 136,500	\$ 400,200
2021	\$ 152,450	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,200	\$ 36,500	\$ 304,150
2022	\$ 156,400	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,300	\$ 36,500	\$ 308,200
2023	\$ 157,400	\$ 110,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 175,000	\$ 450,800
2024	\$ 164,450	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 36,500	\$ 316,450
2025	\$ 168,550	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,600	\$ 36,500	\$ 320,650
2026	\$ 169,700	\$ 110,000	\$ 8,700	\$ 175,000	\$ 463,400

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **State of Wisconsin**

DATE: January 19, 2016

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Keith Foye, DATCP *Keith Foye*
Bureau of Land and Water Resource Management

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

Action Requested: This is an action item. The department has determined that the *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan* meets ATCP 50 requirements and requests that the LWCB make a recommendation regarding approval of the plan consistent with applicable criteria and guidance.

Summary: The plan is written as a 10 year plan, and addresses one or more of the criteria demonstrating intent for a 10 year plan. If approved, the plan would remain in effect through December 31, 2026, and would be subject to a five year review prior to December 31, 2021.

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

Kenosha County held a public hearing on September 30, 2015, as part of its public input and review process. The Kenosha County Land and Water 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
- *Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan* Summary, including workplan and budget

Presenters: Dan Treloar, Kenosha County Conservationist



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

Sec. 92.10, Stats. & sec. ATCP 50.12, Wis. Adm. Code

County: Kenosha

Date Plan Submitted for Review: 9-29-15

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Yes	No	Page
1. Did the county convene a local advisory committee that included a broad spectrum of public interests and perspectives (such as affected landowners, partner organizations, government officials, educational institutions)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
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.	8/5 & 9/14 2015		
2. Provide the date the county held a public hearing on the LWRM plan. ¹	9/30/15		
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	2/16/16		
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. an estimate of the soil erosion rates for the whole county and for local areas where erosion rates are especially high	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	74-79
ii. identification of key soil erosion problem areas in the county	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	77 Map 19
b. Water quality conditions of watersheds in the county ³ , including:			

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.

- i. location of watershed areas, showing their geographic boundaries 23-27 map 11
- ii. identification of the causes and sources of the water quality impairments and pollutant sources 23-27 74-79
- iii. identification of key water quality problem areas in the county 23-27 74-79

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 74-79 apend.
- b. pollutant load reduction targets for the watersheds, if available Apend B,C,D

- 3. Does the plan or related documentation reflect that the county consulted with DNR⁴ to provide 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. 3 Apend B,C,D

Other comments: Ben, DNR NPS supervisor and Dr. Tom Slawski- SEWRPC Chief Biologist were on the CAC. Watershed pollutant loads were identified by Applied Ecological services, Lake County Stormwater management commission & SEWRPC

IV. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the LWRM plan include the following implementation strategies:			
a. A voluntary implementation strategy to encourage farm conservation practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	84,92, 94,98
b. State and local regulations used to implement the plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49-54
c. Compliance procedures that apply for failure to implement the conservation practices in ATCP 50, ch. NR 151 and related local regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	76
d. Relevant conservation practices to achieve compliance with performance standards and prohibitions and to address key water quality and erosion problems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apend E
e. Strategy to monitor the compliance of participants in the farmland preservation program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

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.

2. Does the LWRM plan (or accompanying work plan) estimate cost-sharing and other financial assistance, and technical assistance needed for plan implementation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	98-99
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	75
4. Was DNR consulted about the county's plan for NR 151 implementation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Other comments: Ben Benninghoff(DNR) was on the CAC and Pete Wood (DNR) reviewed the stormwater ordinance and monitors its administration.

V. 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, including an estimate of the amount of I& E needed for plan implementation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	79-81
2. Does the LWRM plan describe coordination activities with local, state and federal agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	83-97

Other comments: The success of this plan relies on our continued partnerships, as detailed in the work plan and throughout this report, with DATCP, NRCS, FSA, UW-EXT, WDNR, USCOE, SEWRPC, FEMA, AND local municipalities and work groups.

VI. WORK PLANNING AND PROGRESS MONITORING	Yes	No	Page
1. Does the county's work plan do all of the following:			
a. Cover more than one year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	83-97
b. Identify priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	83-97
c. Provide measurable annual and multi-year performance benchmarks (for at least all high priority items)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	83-97
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	98-99

Other comments: _____

VII. EPA SECTION 319 CONSIDERATIONS
1. DOES THIS PLAN INCLUDE ELEMENTS <u>CONSISTENT</u> WITH THE MINIMUM 9 KEY ELEMENTS FOR EPA APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 319 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT: Yes

2. IF THE ANSWER TO 1 IS "YES," WHAT IS THE STATUS OF EPA'S REVIEW OF THE PLAN:

NOT SUBMITTED SUBMITTED BUT NOT APPROVED APPROVED

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: Jan. 15, 2016

**A LAND AND WATER
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR KENOSHA COUNTY:
2017-2026**

Kenosha County Division of Planning Operations

Prepared by the

Kenosha County Department of Public Works and Development Services
Division of Planning Operations

February 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1997, Chapter 92 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* was amended to require, and give authority for, counties to develop their own land and water resource management plans (LWRMP). The LWRMP is a State-mandated long-range planning document intended to guide the activities of the County's Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD), in its efforts to protect and improve land and water resources. The initial Kenosha County LWRMP was adopted by the County Board in 2001. A revised and updated version of the plan was approved in 2007. This second revision of the LWRMP has been prepared following the requirements of Chapters ATCP 50 and NR 151 of the *Wisconsin Admin. Code*. The development of this plan is intended to serve as a 10-year workplan which will:

- Specifically address the implementation of State nonpoint source pollution performance standards developed by the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP);
- Identify local land and water resources concerns, issues, and priorities;
- Establish goals and objectives in response to the identified concerns and issues;
- Develop a comprehensive program integrating existing and proposed resource management programs plans, and funding sources designed to achieve the established goals and objectives;
- Establish partnerships between agencies, municipalities, and other organizations;
- Incorporate an informational and educational strategy in response to the identified concerns and issues; and
- Identify a method to evaluate and monitor progress.

The Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan incorporates inventory findings, including land use, natural resource data, soil erosion levels, and water quality data. Additionally, the plan addresses the principal land and water resource concerns and issues that were identified by the Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The principal issues and concerns that were identified by the Advisory Committee include the following:

- Cropland erosion from excess sedimentation into lakes and streams;
- Flooding and stormwater management issues;
- Urbanization and wetland losses;
- Invasive species control;
- Waterfront development and shoreline erosion; and
- Lack of natural resource and environmental information to schools and County residents.

The Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision contains the following five chapters:

Chapter 1 – INTRODUCTION AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Chapter 2 – KENOSHA COUNTY OVERVIEW

Chapter 3 – AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Chapter 4 – RELATED PLANS, REGULATIONS, NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS AND CONSERVATION APPROACHES

Chapter 5 – GOALS, OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING/EVALUATION, AND ESTIMATED COSTS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The plan was developed under the guidance of a Citizen Advisory Committee that was comprised of individuals that had natural resource, nonpoint source, agricultural, or environmental backgrounds. The Committee included agency personnel from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC); local farmers, educators, lake representatives, county land and water conservation staff; municipal and county government personnel. The Committee reviewed each chapter of the plan in draft form and provided comments and recommendations, which were then addressed in the final plan. This plan was approved by the Advisory Committee on September 17, 2015; the Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation Committee on September 30, 2015; the Kenosha County Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee on October 14, 2012 approved by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board on February 2, 2016, with final approval by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors on February 16, 2016.

KENOSHA COUNTY OVERVIEW

Kenosha County Overview in Chapter 2 identifies, describes, and documents demographic trends and existing infrastructure that affects land use and agricultural development in Kenosha County. The size, composition and spatial distribution of the population and its access to services have a profound influence on the quantity and quality of the natural resource base, including agricultural resources of Kenosha County. Chapter 2 summarizes these important elements below:

- Population
- Municipal Expansion
- Housing
- Utilities And Community Facilities
- Community Facilities And Services
- Communications
- Energy
- Water Supply
- Waste Management
- Transportation

The most sustainable land use patterns are served by efficient public facilities and services that meet the social, economic, physical, ecological, and quality-of-life needs of Kenosha County. This vision includes relatively compact urban service areas providing basic urban services and facilities; a safe efficient transportation system; a strong agricultural resource base closely connected to resource-rich open spaces; a clean, sustainable water resource, and abundant public and private recreational opportunities all while retaining the County's cultural heritage and rural character, founded in agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Chapter 3 - Agricultural And Natural Resource Assessment provides inventory information on existing agricultural and natural resources in Kenosha County. Information regarding soil types, existing farmland, farming operations, nonmetallic mining resources, topography and geology, surface and groundwater water resources, forest resources, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and environmental corridors are included in this chapter.

RELATED PLANS, REGULATIONS, NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS AND CONSERVATION APPROACHES

The southeastern region of Wisconsin, Kenosha County and its communities has a rich history of planning. Numerous plans have been developed at the regional level including a regional land use plan, transportation system plan, natural areas plan, regional water supply and a water quality management plans. Plans developed at the County level include a Comprehensive Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan, County Park and Open Space Plan, All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Land and Water Resources Management Plan, and Comprehensive Watershed and Basin Plans. These existing plans and programs provide the guidelines for natural resource management in Kenosha County.

Chapter 4 also describes conservation funding programs used to preserve agricultural and natural resources that are available to county and local governments, including federal, state, county, and local programs. Included are sources of grant funds for the acquisition, preservation, and development of park and open space sites and information regarding current practices, programs, and methods used to preserve agricultural and natural resources.

Programs that focus on agricultural and natural resources include the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, Working Lands - Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements Program, Soil and Water Resource Management Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Wetland Reserve Program. Federal and State programs are also available to help County and local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations to acquire park and open space lands, and to help to provide recreational facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING/EVALUATION, AND ESTIMATED COSTS

The CAC developed the five goals established on the first page of this summary. No goal is a priority over another goal. In Chapter 5, Table 14 (pages 82-96), lays out the workplan goals and objectives. The activities listed in bold under the planned actions are measurable and planned goals to be accomplished by the Land and Water Conservation Division. The other planned actions include activities to assist and support the goals and workplan. A summary of the 5-year workplan, goals and objectives include the following;

The first major goal includes the protection and perseveration of the County's land and water resources. This includes utilizing the Farmland Preservation Program to protect prime farmland. Working with local agency partners to enhance and protect other environmental resources through easements, improvements through planning efforts, promoting riparian buffers, and the protection of surface and ground water. This goal also includes the protection of forests and woodlands, the proper management of shorelands and floodplains, and the appropriate reclamation of non-metallic mining sites.

The next goal is to increase resource protection by reducing non-point source pollution. The Agricultural Performance Standards, Farmland Preservation Program, Nutrient Management Plan Development, Animal Waste Management Ordinance, and Livestock Facility Siting are all effective methods of completing this task. The priority farm strategy will target farms in soil and water quality management areas, farms with livestock, and farmers participating in the Soil and Water Resources (SWRM) program. Our GIS tracking system, along with a compliance inventory

and monitoring system will help guide our office through this process. We will also utilize SWRM, EQIP, WHIP, WRP, CRP, TRM, CSP, and any other State and Federal grant funds to assist in accomplishing this goal. Establishing partnerships between local municipalities and the Kenosha County LWCD, to accomplish phosphorus compliance, by implementing Nutrient Trading and/or Adaptive Management strategies will improve water quality throughout the County.

Implementing the non-agricultural performance standards to reduce non-point source water pollution is the third major goal. Implementation activities for this goal include: shoreland erosion control, stormwater management planning, construction site erosion control, and illicit discharge monitoring. Also, the MS4 permit requirements will be implemented through the Land and Water Conservation Division.

Another major goal is to increase the information, education and awareness of activities to promote the conservation of natural resources, the environment, and the State Performance Standards. This includes providing public outreach to developers, engineers, landscapers, local officials, lake associations, schools, farmers and the general public. We will continue to provide quarterly "Ties to the Land" and "Compass Point" newsletters, an annual "Rural Landowner Workshop", and assist with other training and seminar opportunities. Also, the LWCD will continue to provide information and education through one-on-one contacts, phone calls, lake packets, and handouts related to all of the goals listed in this summary.

The final goal, for this workplan, is the management and control of invasive and non-native species. This includes youth activities, workshops, clean boats/clean waters volunteer programs and the encouragement, support, and implementation of new and existing aquatic plant management plans.

PROGRESS MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The monitoring and evaluation of program efforts is important to ensure the effectiveness of the planned activities described in Chapter 5 of this plan. The Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation Division currently employs a variety of methods to monitor and evaluate the progress of program efforts. These methods include; a GIS database, advisory committees, annual progress reports, and water quality monitoring. Monitoring program effectiveness will be carried out through analyses and quantification of soil erosion, sediment and pollutant loading, priority farm compliance, tracking the level of protection of environmentally sensitive lands and analysis of water quality data. Chapter 5 of this report describes some of these efforts in more detail and how they will be used to monitor and evaluate the success in implementing planned activities.

Consistent and thorough evaluation and monitoring of conservation efforts is essential to ensure the effectiveness of the Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. An annual progress report will be the primary method used to evaluate progress of implementing the planned activities outlined in Chapter 5 of this report. The progress report will consist of a summary of the annual outcomes and accomplishments of planned activities outlined in the workplan. This summary may include, but is not limited to: completed information and education activities, landowners contacted, best management practices designed and installed, conservation and nutrient management plans written or revised, cost-share agreements developed, erosion control plans reviewed, compliance monitoring and status, and other planned program results. These annual progress reports will be compiled and forwarded to the DATCP and the WDNR. The results of the monitoring and evaluations conducted over the long-range term of this plan (2017-2026), will be used to improve the next land and water resource management plan.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Since this plan does not have the authority to establish County budget items, the estimated costs provided below are solely intended to satisfy state LWRM planning requirements and do not in any way represent anticipated Kenosha County budgets. It is also assumed that no additional staff resources will be made available to implement this plan beyond what is currently allocated to land and water conservation programs in the County. The cost estimates contained in Table 15 in Chapter 5 of this report are based on average annual costs to maintain existing program efforts and staffing levels.

It is reasonable to assume that existing staff will be able to provide a significant portion of the time required for implementation of this plan. If additional manpower is needed, it will be obtained through cooperative ventures with local universities, colleges, and volunteer groups; consultants, and limited-term or seasonal staff increases.

Table 14

**KENOSHA COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT WORKPLAN 2017-2026**

GOAL #1 Protect and Preserve Kenosha County's Land and Water Resources (0.50 FTE and 30 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Conserve Kenosha County's unique natural resources in the face of increasing urbanization and resulting loss of farmland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Preserve Certified Farmland Preservation Areas designated in the <i>Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan</i> and the <i>Multijurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035</i> 2) Help prepare and distribute an annual Farm Fresh Atlas to advertise farmer's markets to support farm to table initiatives, helping connect local farmers with local buyers 3) Implement land use planning to sustain farmland and agricultural businesses identified in the <i>Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend the preservation of open/green space to builders and developers • Promote conservation subdivisions and rural cluster development • Continue to encourage Exclusive Agricultural Zoning • Protect farmland through Land Division Ordinances • Promote agri-tourism in Kenosha County through agricultural-related special events • Protect agricultural infrastructure in Kenosha County to support farm operations • Support the Purchase of Development Rights and the Transfer of Development Rights to conserve farmland • Promote local and sustainable farm practices and farm marketing • Support Community Supported Agriculture a partnership between the farmer and the consumer to buy local, seasonal food directly from the grower 4) Advise homeowner associations on how to manage their open space, wetlands, woodlots and detention ponds 5) Continue to support acquisition and preservation of environmental corridors and important identified natural areas and critical species habitat areas 6) Encourage urban-density land use to be confined to and within the identified urban sewer service areas 	Ongoing	LWCD

GOAL #1 Protect and Preserve Kenosha County's Land and Water Resources (0.50 FTE and 30 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Implement and refine the County's shoreland/floodplain management program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enforce the County Shoreland regulations through review and issuance of 12+ stipulated shoreland permits a year 2) Adopt and administer a shoreland zoning ordinance that meets the minimum provisions of NR 115.05 by October 2016 3) Quantify, digitally document and photograph shoreland development, impervious surfaces and setback distances as part of a Lake Classification Plan currently in preparation 4) Administer revisions under Act 167 to Ch. 30, Wis. Stats in regards to grading and OHWM/Navigability 5) Preserve and protect streams and watercourses impacted by new construction and redevelopment 6) Continue to monitor Lake Michigan shoreline, especially in those reaches with relatively high unprotected bluffs 7) Participate in the study of flood hazards for Lake Michigan through FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment 	Ongoing	LWCD SEWRPC FEMA
Create, restore and enhance wetland, riverine, and wildlife habitat throughout the county	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assist planning commission staff, NRCS USF&W, WIDOT and contractors with wetland mitigation, restoration, and stream relocation projects 2) Work with landowners, WDNR, FSA, USF&W, Racine/Kenosha Land Trust and NRCS to utilize local, State and Federal program funds for wetland and riverine improvements 3) Seek funding sources for lake and river water quality protection and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) planning 4) Continue to administer Kenosha County's C-1 Lowland Resource Conservancy District ordinance 5) Append Zoning ordinance to recognize and protect Environmental Corridors 6) Work together with the WDNR, NRCS USCOE and SEWRPC to resolve wetland related issues 	Ongoing	LWCD WDNR FSA NRCS USF&W Racine/ Kenosha Land Trust NRCS USCOE SEWRPC WIDOT
Prepare, update and implement lake protection and comprehensive watershed plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work with planning commission staff, lake association members, and outside contractors in the development of watershed management plan(s). Plans currently in progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-wide Lake Classification Plan 2) Implement the recently completed Nine Key Element Plans for the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Watershed, Root River Watershed and the Pike River Watershed 3) Encourage native grasses, plants and bio-stabilization on shorelines, where applicable 4) Continue to partner with the USCOE, WDNR, Lake County, Cook County and SEWRPC to prepare a Des Plaines River watershed feasibility study (Phase II) 	Ongoing	LWCD USCOE WDNR SEWRPC Lake Assoc. Lake County Root/Pike WIN USCOE
Monitor the conditional use of active and assure the reclamation of inactive nonmetallic mining sites	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to administer Chapter 13 Kenosha County Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance 2) Inspect and annually certify 3 reclamation plans and conditional uses 3) Conduct compliance inspections of reclaimed sites 	Ongoing	LWCD

GOAL #1 Protect and Preserve Kenosha County's Land and Water Resources (0.50 FTE and 30 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Promote riparian buffers along all water resources in the County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Utilize SWRM cost-share to install streambank and shoreline protection 2) Use GIS and field inspections to characterize the existing riparian buffer widths along county streams 2) Continue to work with and form more resource partnerships to educate riparian landowners of the water quality benefits of buffers 3) Offer SWRM cost-share funds to install bio-engineered systems with vegetated buffers 4) Continue to implement CRP to protect water quality 5) Recommend alternative methods available to protect shorelines subject to low erosion intensity 	Ongoing	LWCD DATCP UW-Ext
Groundwater Protection: Quality And Quantity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Utilize SWRM cost-share funds to permanently abandon 3-5 unused wells annually 2) Conduct one spring and one fall hazardous waste clean-up day each year and one electronic waste drop-off day each year 3) Encourage the infiltration of stormwater as set forth in Chapter NR 151 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code 4) Help developers identify potential stormwater infiltration areas using field data, web based GIS mapping, and the soil survey layer 5) Incorporate SEWRPC Regional Water Supply Plan recommendation into future planning efforts 6) Work with agricultural producers to soil test farm fields and provide assistance to producers to develop nutrient management plans for farm field 7) Encourage the infiltration of stormwater and help developers identify potential stormwater infiltration areas using field data, web based GIS mapping, and the soil survey layer 	Ongoing	LWCD DATCP SEWRPC UW-Ext

GOAL #1 Protect and Preserve Kenosha County's Land and Water Resources (0.50 FTE and 30 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Floodplain regulation, protection and information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assist with updating floodplain zoning maps for unstudied reaches or watersheds with outdated flood studies 2) Amend the County Zoning Ordinance to be compliant with WDNR and FEMA requirements 3) Conduct inspections and document flood damages following a flooding event 4) Prepare Letters of Map Amendment – Out as Shown to help residence remove their structures from the floodplain 5) Prevent increases in flood heights that could increase flood damage and result in conflicts between property owners 6) Discourage development in a floodplain if there is any practicable alternative to locate the activity, use or structure outside of the floodplain 7) Continue to assist and promote the Fox River Flood Mitigation Program to voluntarily acquire and demolish residential structures and relocate displaced residents from the Fox River floodplain. All acquired property is placed in permanent open space. 8) Administer the FEMA Community Rating System program that provides lower insurance premiums under the National Flood Insurance Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation Certificates Flood Data Maintenance Map Information Service Stormwater Management Outreach Projects Repetitive Loss Requirements Hazard Disclosure Floodplain Management Planning Flood Protection Information Acquisition and Relocation Open Space Preservation Flood Warning Program Land Development Criteria Dam Safety 9) Recommend adoption of floodland zoning regulations and participation in the Nation Flood Insurance Program to effected municipal units of government 	Ongoing	LWCD FEMA WDNR Local Govt.
Support efforts to protect and enhance our forests and woodlots	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Administer the Kenosha County annual tree program distributing 15,000+ trees and shrubs every spring 2) Enforce the County C-2 Upland Resource Conservancy District ordinance 3) Work with the area forester to provide forestry assistance to landowners 4) Continue to support the Southeast Wisconsin Woodland Owners Conference 5) Support the Managed Forest Law Program 	Ongoing	LWCD WDNR UW-Ext

GOAL #1 Protect and Preserve Kenosha County's Land and Water Resources (0.50 FTE and 30 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Preservation of environmental corridors, wetlands, floodplains and other environmentally sensitive natural areas	<p>1) Follow planning elements recommended in the <i>Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: 2035</i> and the <i>Park and Open Space Plan for Kenosha County</i> to preserve natural areas.</p> <p>Open Space Preservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas • Preserve natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological areas • Protect open space lands located within project boundaries established by the State and The Nature Conservancy • Preserve and protect prime agricultural lands <p>Outdoor Recreational Element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support our eight existing parks; Bong State Recreation Area, Brighton Dale Park and Golf Course, Bristol Woods Park, Fox River Park, Petrifying Springs Park and Golf Course, Silver Lake Park, West End Park, and Prairie Springs Park • Help acquire additional lands for West End Park and Bong State Recreation Area, develop additional facilities at Brighton Dale Park, Fox River Park, and West End Park • Implement the recently adopted <i>Kenosha County Comprehensive Bicycle Plan</i> to provide a safe and convenient network of connections between communities, parks, schools, recreation areas, and other popular destinations. • Expand our system of recreation trails for such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring • Support efforts relating to the preservation of historic sites and districts throughout the County 	Ongoing	LWCD SEWRPC

GOAL #4 Increase Information and Education Activities to Promote the Conservation of Natural Resources and the Environment (0.33 FTE and 20 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Provide outreach programs to teachers, students, school administrators and youth groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to make available programs to provide real work experience opportunities for High School or College students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth in Governance • At Risk Youth Empowerment • Youth As Resources • Summer Internships • Leadership Kenosha 2) Make available informational brochures and fact sheets to walk-ins 3) Provide and keep up-to-date the information and education page on the county conservation website 4) Continue to participate in the annual State of Wisconsin Environmental Poster Contest 5) Use radio, newspaper, and cable TV to deliver environmental programming 6) Utilize new and existing programs to help implement a curriculum to inform students about natural resource issues, their function and role in the environment, and ways they can manage and restore those resources 7) Assist area youth groups in the development of outdoor classroom activities to promote land and water conservation 	Ongoing	LWCD UW-Ext WI Land + Water Youth Groups
Provide outreach programs to developers, engineers, landscapers, local officials, and work groups that will increase awareness of stormwater pollution impacts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Host one annual workshop presentation on stormwater and erosion control BMP's 2) Promote environmentally sensitive land development designs i.e. rain gardens and infiltration swales 3) Educate homeowner's associations in charge of stormwater basin management and maintenance 4) Provide information to developers about nonagricultural performance standards and prohibitions 	Ongoing	LWCD UW-Ext
Educate landowners, agricultural supply businesses, lawn maintenance companies, and park and golf course superintendents and others on the importance of nutrient chemical management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Organize one annual nutrient management planning certification, update or revision training course 2) Promote six UW Ext Landscape and Grounds Maintenance short-course 3) Work with area coops and other suppliers to develop seminars targeted to nutrient and agricultural chemical management and regulations, as well as area lawn companies, golf course and park superintendents 	Ongoing	LWCD UW-Ext TSPs

GOAL #4 Increase Information and Education Activities to Promote the Conservation of Natural Resources and the Environment (0.33 FTE and 20 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Increase landowner and producer/operator awareness of conservation practices and programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to provide a quarterly newsletter <i>Ties to the Land</i> to 5200+ landowners and producers 2) Distribute a Planning & Development newsletter <i>Compass Point</i> to local municipal offices, libraries and web access 3) Host one Annual Rural Landowner Conference at the Kenosha County Center each November 4) Host periodic Southeast Area Land & Water Conservation Association summer bus tours 5) Promote voluntary implementation of conservation practices necessary to meet the performance standards and prohibitions 6) Partner with FSA, NRCS and neighboring counties to sponsor a bus tour that showcases local conservation projects 7) Help support a Dairy Breakfast field day annually to promote dairy farming 8) Distribute informational material during office and site visits 9) Use direct mailings to contact priority farms 	Ongoing	LWCD UW-Ext FSA NRCS Local Govt.
Maintain a Land & Water Conservation website	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maintain an up-to-date website on conservation programs, technical services, stormwater regulation, tree program, and cost-shared practices, etc. 2) Provide a specific web page that describes the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative with links to fact sheets and tax credit eligibility and compliance requirements 3) Keep current and archive, plans, ordinances, newsletters and permit requirements/forms and events 4) Present training related to the County's GIS, available layers, and land information web portal at local workshops and conferences 5) List up-to-date links to resource partners, lake associations/districts, local grass roots groups, conservation and wildlife clubs, local, State and Federal agencies 6) Maintain an interactive mapping portal for access to Certified Farmland Preservation Areas, Agricultural Enterprise Areas, parcels, topography, public land survey system, roads, water bodies, zoning, soils, wetlands, floodplains, shoreland, aerial photography, etc. 	Ongoing	LWCD

GOAL #4 Increase Information and Education Activities to Promote the Conservation of Natural Resources and the Environment (0.33 FTE and 20 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Provide information to riparian property owners and local landscape contractors on the benefits shoreland stewardship practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Distribute by direct mail 20+ lake information packets to new riparian landowners 2) Provide support to lake district/associations in developing lake protection and aquatic plant management plans 3) Hold seminars targeted towards landscape contractors on the effectiveness of riparian buffers and potential design options for residential and business situations 4) Assist in developing demonstration sites to illustrate sound riparian land management for buffer establishment 5) Partner with lake districts and associations on shoreline protection and restoration demonstration projects and workshops 6) Make available informational and educational programming targeted towards riparian property owners 	Ongoing	LWCD Lake Districts/A ssoc.
Provide information to the county residents about how they can control water pollution and groundwater contamination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conduct one annual workshop presentation to promote water conservation, rain gardens, groundwater protection, etc. 2) Continue to provide well water test kits 3) Promote cost-share funds to permanently abandon unused wells 4) Coordinate one semi-annual hazardous waste clean-up day 5) Coordinate one semi-annual electronic waste clean-up day 6) Continue to provide one annual Ag chemical waste drop-off day 6) Continue to partner with the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network and UW-Extension in offering six Greener Yards, Cleaner Waters workshops, newsletter distribution and Sparkles the Water Spaniel - Respect Our Waters advertising campaign 7) Distribute informational materials to homeowners on pet waste, leaf and grass clipping disposal, lawn fertilization techniques, and problems associated with dumping chemicals directly into storm sewers 8) Promote storm drain stenciling and provide materials to schools and youth groups 	Ongoing	LWCD UW-Ext Root/Pike WIN DATCP
Provide information to county residents about how they can control exotic and invasive species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conduct one workshop to educate local work and youth groups on how to identify and eliminate exotic and invasive species 2) Assist with Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer program 3) Utilize and assist with the SEWISC inventory and monitoring program 	Ongoing	LWCD SEWISC WDNR

GOAL #5 Promote and Support Invasive and Nonnative Species Management and Control in Kenosha County (0.10 FTE and 5 percent budget/year)			
Workplan	Planned Actions	Status	Agency
Control the infestation of terrestrial and aquatic nonnative and invasive plant and animal species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conduct one annual workshop or presentations on nonnative and invasive plant and animal species control 2) Continue to partner with Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium and support their ongoing roadside invasive species survey 3) Provide a specific web page dedicated to pest management identification, classification and control with links to fact sheets and web resources 4) Provide information on Emerald Ash Borer identification, detection, quarantine, and control techniques 5) Continue to coordinate the Gypsy Moth suppression program 6) Continue to support the Slow the Spread by Boat and Tread! Poster Contest for 4th and 5th graders 7) Distribute informational material, answer phone and direct inquiries 8) Organize and educate local work and youth groups to identify and eliminate nonnative and invasive species, assist the clean boats, clean waters volunteer program, and support purple loosestrife biological control 9) Encourage the development and adoption of aquatic plant management plans for all inland lakes 10) LWCD staff will provide educational information and encourage training opportunities that focus on Starry stonewort prevention and ways to stop the spread of this highly invasive species. 	Ongoing	LWCD UW-Ext SEWISC WDNR Lake Districts/ Assos.

NOTES: All goals are of equal priority. Workplan objectives for each goal are listed in priority order from highest to lowest. Planned Actions with measurable benchmarks are indicated in **bold**.

Agency acronyms used in this table are defined below:

- DATCP = Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- FSA = USDA Farm Services Agency
- LWCD = Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Division
- NRCS = USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- TSP = Technical Service Provider
- SEWRPC = Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- USCOE = United States Army Corps of Engineers
- USF&W = United States Department of Agriculture—Fish & Wildlife Services
- UW-Ext = University of Wisconsin-Extension
- SEWISC = Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium
- Root/Pike WIN = Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network
- WIDOT = Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Administration
- WI Land + Water = Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association

Table 15

**SUMMARY OF PLAN OF WORK COSTS FOR KENOSHA COUNTY
LAND AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2026**

Program Element	PLAN IMPLEMENTATION YEAR					Total
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Salary and Benefits ^a	\$169,000	\$170,690	\$172,397	\$174,121	\$175,862	\$862,070
Operating Expenses ^a	\$15,000	\$15,150	\$15,302	\$15,455	\$15,610	\$76,517
Landowner Cost-Share Hard Practices ^b	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$375,000
Landowner Cost-Share Soft Practices ^b	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$75,000
Total Program	\$274,000^a	\$275,840^b	\$277,699^b	\$279,576^b	\$281,472^b	\$1,388,587

Program Element	PLAN IMPLEMENTATION YEAR					Total	Ten-Year Total Costs
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
Salary and Benefits ^a	\$177,621	\$179,397	\$181,191	\$183,003	\$184,833	\$906,045	\$1,768,115
Operating Expenses ^a	\$15,766	\$15,924	\$16,083	\$16,244	\$16,406	\$80,423	\$156,940
Landowner Cost-Share Hard Practices ^b	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$375,000	\$750,000
Landowner Cost-Share Soft Practices ^b	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
Total Program	\$283,387^a	\$285,321^b	\$287,274^b	\$289,247^b	\$291,239^b	\$1,436,468	\$2,825,055

^aAnticipate 1 percent annual increases for salaries, benefits, and operating expenses.

^bThe costs provided by landowners and other grant recipients would be approximately \$270,000

The procedures and cost estimates outlined in this chapter represent the best estimates of the LWCD at the time of plan preparation and are all subject to change. No attempt is made to identify the source of funding beyond the assumptions noted above. All of the estimated costs are subject to the annual budget processes at the county, state and federal levels. The LWCD will make every attempt to take advantage of the wide array of grants and partnerships that may be available through public or private sources to implement this plan.

* * * * *

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **STATE OF WISCONSIN**

DATE: January 22, 2016

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Keith Foye 
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Report on revisions to annual work plan requirements

Recommendation: This is an informational item. The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) may provide feedback.

Background: Since 2012, DATCP and the LWCB have taken the following actions to strengthen work planning and related reporting.

As part of the transition to 10 year approvals of Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans, the LWCB implemented requirements designed to improve work plans including requirements involving specific, measurable benchmarks and targets for planned activities. See February 27, 2012 *Final guidance on additional criteria for recommending approval of land and water resource management plans including requirements to secure 10-year approvals and 5-year extensions*,

<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/FinalGuidanceOnAdditionalCriteria.pdf>.

When ATCP 50 was revised in 2014, DATCP enhanced work planning standards by:

1. Setting priorities when identifying planned activities.
2. Establishing benchmarks for performance when identifying planned activities,
3. Estimating expected costs, including an estimate of costs to implement conservation practices to achieve the work plan objectives. See ATCP 50.12(2)(i).

To implement this and other rule changes, DATCP modified the LWRM Plan review checklist, <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/doc/LWRMPlanReviewChecklist.docx>

As a condition for receiving annual DATCP grant funds, counties have historically been required to have a current work plan on file with the department. For counties whose work plans have become outdated, DATCP has instructed them to submit a revised work plan with their grant applications. Using this approach, DATCP has received sporadic updates of work plans over the years, and believes that a significant number of work plans on file with the department do not reflect the most current activities being pursued by counties.

In conjunction with work plan changes, DATCP has revised its annual reporting requirements to better capture county efforts in implementing priority activities in their work plans. The most recent annual report required counties to identify their top 5 highest priority activities in the prior year and report on their progress in reaching the benchmarks established for those activities.

Improved work planning and reporting will increase accountability. In regard to this proposal, annual work plans will improve DATCP's capacity to document county performance. Since grant applications are due on April 15th, counties should have adequate information to prepare annual work plans that accurately depict their planned activities since they will have started implementing their work plans three months earlier in January. With more accurate work plans, counties will be in a better position to document progress through annual reports submitted in the following year.

The proposed changes are in step with accountability measures being pursued by other state and federal programs. For example, in Minnesota, the Performance Review and Assistance Program was developed in response to demand for a systematic review of local government implementation of conservation plans, and reporting of publically accessible results, http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/2014_PRAP_Final_Report.pdf In this state, DNR's *Guidance for Implementing Wisconsin's Multi-Discharger Variance for Phosphorus*, http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/documents/Phosphorus/MDVguidance_10162015.pdf, stresses that counties receiving MDV funds will be required to submit Annual Reports summarizing the results of the project, including quantifying, in pounds, the associated phosphorus reductions through best management practices.

Proposed changes: The following changes are proposed for work plan requirements:

1. All counties will be required to submit an annual work plan with their DATCP grant application, with the first annual plan due on or before April 15, 2016
2. Annual work plans submitted by counties must cover activities to be performed in the year in which application is submitted. The first plans must cover activities planned for 2016.
3. Annual work plans must be submitted on a DATCP-approved template (see attached) with standardized headers. Counties must make a reasonable attempt to describe NR 151 implementation activities (as required by ATCP 50) using the examples provided by DATCP.
4. Annual work plans are limited to no more than four pages in length including completion of the first page of required entries where goals and objectives are listed in bold.
5. Annual work plans must only include priority activities, and should cover activities beyond the required entries on the first page.
6. The planned activities described in an annual work plan must account for at least 50 percent of available county staff hours for the year.
7. Each planned activity described in the annual work plan must include a benchmark by which to measure performance.
8. For all activities related to the installation of conservation practices, work plans must include performance measures related to sediment and nutrient (e.g. phosphorous) reductions if applicable.

Implementation schedule: The following table covers the schedule for implementing program changes and publishing revised documentation describing revised program requirements.

Date	Action
January 2016	Release 2017 grant application with a general reference regarding county submission of annual work plans. DATCP will not share the details for implementing this requirement until after the February meeting of the LWCB.
February 2016	DATCP will present the new approach at the LWCB meeting. This may include a presentation on changes in requirements for work plans submitted as part of LWRM plan revisions. DATCP will notify counties about the details for implementing the work plan requirement and provide a work plan template.
February-March 2016	DATCP sends out a link for counties to complete the 2015 annual report. The new survey will be modified to create a bridge from the older approach to performance evaluation to the new approach based on the county's annual work plans.
April 15, 2016	Last date for counties to submit annual work plans describing 2016 priority activities. Counties must complete their 2015 annual report by this date.
April 16-May 15, 2016	DATCP will work with counties to submit work plans meeting the new requirements.

Impact of Changes on LWRM plan revisions: The new requirement for annual work plans will change how counties prepare their LWRM plan revisions. Instead of including an extensive description of planned activities to implement each of their goals and objectives, counties may generally describe their goals and objectives, and highlight key activities to achieve these goals and objectives. This new system of annual work plans will satisfy the requirement for LWRM plan approval in ATCP 50.12(2)(j) related to “measurable annual and multi-year benchmarks” as long as the county continues to submit an annual work plan with measurable benchmarks each year during the period in which its LWRM plan is approved.

Materials Provided:

- Work Plan Template and Example

Presenters: Lisa Trumble and Richard Castelnovo, DATCP

**20__ ANNUAL WORK PLAN, COUNTY
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SITE EVALUATION AND INSTALLATION**

Annual work plans (a) must be consistent with the goals and objectives described in the County's LWRM Plan, (b) are limited to no more than four pages in length including completion of the first page of required entries where goals and objectives are listed in bold, (c) must only include priority activities (and should describe activities beyond the required entries), (d) have benchmarks for each planned activity, and (e) identify performance measures related to sediment and nutrient (e.g. phosphorous) reductions if applicable. The planned activities described in an annual work plan must account for at least 50 percent of available county staff hours for the year.

GOAL/OBJECTIVE (Include LWRM plan references, i.e. goal number and objective number)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS (identify focus areas if applicable, e.g. HUC 12 watershed)	ESTIMATE OF STAFF COSTS (Hours if not accounted for)	ESTIMATE OF COST-SHARING	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS
<i>Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions</i>				<i># of inspections performed # of compliance certificates, compliance schedules or letters issued</i>
<i>Cropland conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions</i>				<i># of staff hours expended for training, design and installation Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced # lbs of P reduced # acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard (e.g. soil erosion, tillage setback)</i>
<i>Livestock facility conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions</i>				<i># of staff hours expended for design and installation Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced # lbs of P reduced # of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard</i>
<i>Permits issued or obtained in connection with practices installed</i>				<i># of staff hours # permits issued or obtained</i>
<i>Conservation practices installed to implement LWRM priorities</i>				<i># of staff hours expended for design and installation Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount Cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced # lbs of P reduced</i>

20__ ANNUAL WORK PLAN, COUNTY
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SITE EVALUATION AND INSTALLATION

Annual work plans (a) must be consistent with the goals and objectives described in the County's LWRM Plan, (b) are limited to no more than four pages in length including completion of the first page of required entries where goals and objectives are listed in bold, (c) must only include priority activities (and should describe activities beyond the required entries), (d) have benchmarks for each planned activity, and (e) identify performance measures related to sediment and nutrient (e.g. phosphorous) reductions if applicable. The planned activities described in an annual work plan must account for at least 50 percent of available county staff hours for the year.

GOAL/OBJECTIVE (Include LWRM plan references, i.e. goal number and objective number)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS (identify focus areas if applicable, e.g. HUC 12 watershed)	ESTIMATE OF STAFF COSTS (Hours if not accounted for)	ESTIMATE OF COST-SHARING	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS
Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions	<i>Conduct 20 farm inspections, and document compliance status (includes FPP), in recently designated Agricultural Enterprise Area.</i>	\$6000 (200)	0	# of inspections performed # of compliance certificates, compliance schedules or letters issued
Cropland conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions	<i>Install cropland practices in North Creek Subwatershed:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 waterways cost-shared • 5 nutrient management plans cost-shared • 10 NM plans generated through farmer training <i>Provide technical assistance including training and plans reviews</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 hours of staff time 	\$9,000 (300)	\$30,000 Bond \$28,000 SEG	# of staff hours expended for training, design and installation Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced # lbs of P reduced # acres of cropland in compliance with a performance standard (e.g. soil erosion, tillage setback)
Livestock facility conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions	<i>Install livestock practices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new storage facilities cost-shared • 1 storage facility closure cost-shared • 2 barnyard systems cost-shared <i>Provide technical assistance including design preparation and construction oversight</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 hours of staff time 	\$9,000 (300)	\$50,000 BOND \$150,000 TRM \$100,000 EQIP	# of staff hours expended for design and installation Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount of cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced # lbs of P reduced # of livestock facilities in compliance with a performance standard
Permits issued or obtained in connection with practices installed	<i>Issue 5 manure storage permits issued;</i> <i>Assist with 3 DNR permits</i>	\$3,000 (100)	0	# of staff hours # permits issued or obtained
Conservation practices installed to implement LWRM priorities	<i>Install conservation practices:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 stream bank restorations <i>Provide technical assistance including design preparation and construction oversight</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 hours of staff time 	\$3,000 (100)	\$30,000 Bond	# of staff hours expended for design and installation Type and units of practice(s) installed Amount Cost-share dollars spent # lbs of sediment reduced # lbs of P reduced

**20__ ANNUAL WORK PLAN, COUNTY
 CONSERVATION PRACTICE SITE EVALUATION AND INSTALLATION**

GOAL/OBJECTIVE (Include LWRM plan references, i.e. goal number and objective number)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS (identify focus areas if applicable, e.g. HUC 12 watershed)	ESTIMATE OF STAFF COSTS (Hours if not accounted for)	ESTIMATE OF COST- SHARING	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

EXAMPLE

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: January 22, 2016

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Keith Foye 
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SUBJECT: Revision of LWRM requirements related to work plans, checklist submissions, plan extensions, and five year plan reviews

Recommendation: This is an action item. Based on proposed changes in work plan requirements and the completion of the transition period for 10 year approvals for Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans, staff requests that the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB):

- 1) Eliminate the requirement for counties to submit a LWCB checklist with their plan revisions and 5 year extension requests effective immediately.
- 2) Eliminate the option to seek a Board-recommended extension as part of the phase-out of extension requests effective December 31, 2016.
- 3) Endorse a policy requiring a 10 year planning horizon for all LWRM plans revised after January 1, 2016, and recognize the new annual work plan requirements when reviewing LWRM plan revisions for compliance with ATCP 50.
- 4) Reaffirm the criteria and procedures for the LWCB's five year review of a county's implementation of a LWRM plan approved for 10 years.

Background: Since 2011, DATCP and the LWCB have instituted a series of measures to facilitate the transition from 5 to 10 year approvals of LWRM plans. With the move to a longer planning horizon, the LWCB also identified the need to enhance the requirements for benchmarking planned activities described in county work plans. At this point in time, the current approach does not account for the following significant changes. By February 2016, DATCP will have adopted benchmarking and other criteria for work plans that exceed the requirements specified by the LWCB (See the separate agenda item on this subject). By December 31, 2016, we will have completed the transition from 5 to 10 year plan approvals. Going forward from this point, counties will have plans approved for 10 years, and we no longer will need formal guidance for evaluating whether existing county plans qualify as 10 year plans. Nor do we need a formal extension process in as much as DATCP cannot extend plans already approved for 10 years.

In light of these developments, there is no longer a need to implement the following LWCB requirements in the February 27, 2012 *Final guidance on additional criteria for recommending approval of land and water resource management plans including requirements to secure 10-year approvals and 5-year extensions (2012 LWCB Guidance)*,

[#">http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/FinalGuidanceOnAdditionalCriteria.pdf:#](http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/FinalGuidanceOnAdditionalCriteria.pdf)

1. Benchmarking and other work plan improvements.
2. Standards for approval of 10 year plans including what constitutes sufficient intent to develop a plan that covers a 10 year period.
3. Procedures and requirements for obtaining a 5 year extension of an LWRM plan approved for 5 years.

In one respect, the *2012 LWCB Guidance* remains relevant and necessary: we still need a requirement and procedures for the LWCB to conduct a 5 year review of LWRM plans approved for 10 years, but we may need to revise these to account for changes in work plan requirements.

To implement the *2012 LWCB Guidance*, the LWCB required counties with plan revisions and 5 year extension requests to complete and submit a *County-Prepared Checklist to determine compliance with additional criteria for an LWCB recommendation for a 10-year approval and 5-year extension (LWCB Checklist)*, <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/doc/GuidanceChecklist.doc>. Since the *LWCB Checklist* requires counties to document their compliance with items in *2012 LWCB Guidance* related to benchmarking activities and county intent to develop a 10 year plan, we likewise need to revisit the need for the *Checklist*. We also must reassess whether there is a need for *LWCB Checklist* requirements that county work plans contain adequate information about benchmarked activities and priority farm strategies.

To clarify the procedures for seeking an extension, DATCP prepared the October 1, 2013 *Procedures for rescheduling or extending LWRM plans*, <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/ProceduresForPlanReschedule.pdf> (*DATCP Procedures*). While the procedures for rescheduling a board presentation of a revised LWRM plan remain relevant, there will no longer be a need for formal procedures to request short- and long-term extensions after 2016. In similar vein, there will no longer be need for the forms DATCP developed to request extensions.

The remainder of this memorandum provides a justification for each of the proposed actions, and the schedule for implementing program changes.

Justification: The following is a staff analysis of the justifications to support each of the proposed actions.

1. Eliminate the requirement for counties to submit a separate LWCB checklist with their plan revisions and 5 year extension requests.

With changes in DATCP program requirements and the phase-out of extension requests, the LWCB no longer needs to use its own checklist to verify a county's compliance with benchmarking activities and describing priority farm strategies. Through the following program changes, DATCP has adopted benchmarking and other criteria for work plans that exceed the requirements imposed by the LWCB:

- a. In May 2014, DATCP revised its LWRM plan review checklist to strengthen requirements for benchmarking planned activities and documentation related to priority farm strategies. A DATCP-completed LWRM plan review checklist now provides the assurance that the county has work plans with meaningful benchmarks and a sound "priority farm strategy."
- b. With the 2017 grant application released in January, 2016, DATCP will initiate new requirements for annual work plans that will further strengthen benchmarking requirements beyond those imposed by the LWCB. Under the new system, counties will be required to fill out standardized work plans and benchmark activities described in the work plan.
- c. In preparing revised LWRM plans for 10 year approval, counties will be expected to make a reasonable attempt to: (i) develop recommendations with a local advisory committee for a 10 year time horizon, (ii) identify and analyze resource needs for a period of at least 10 years into the future, (iii) forecast applicable trends 10 years into the future, (iv) set short-

and long-term priorities, with the understanding that changes are likely within the 10 year planning period, and (v) describe the process for monitoring, evaluating and adjusting planned activities during the 10 year approval period.

d. DATCP will continue to prepare and submit its review checklist with all plan revisions.

2. Phase out extensions for expiring LWRM plans effective December 31, 2016 including board recommendations regarding extension requests.

We instituted standards and procedures for plan extensions to facilitate the transition from 5 to 10 year LWRM plan approvals. By December 31, 2016, we will have completed the transition from 5 to 10 year plan approvals. Every county will have secured a 10 year plan through extensions or plan revisions, or will have been provided the opportunity to have a 10 year plan. Starting in 2017, LWRM plan extensions will not serve the purpose for which they were adopted. Most importantly, nearly every county will be ineligible for a plan extension because DATCP is prohibited by rule from extending a county plan that has been approved for 10 years. In place of formal extensions, we will focus on the rescheduling board presentations as described in *2017 Final Guidance regarding Work Plans, Rescheduling of Plan Revisions, and Five Year Plan Reviews (2017 Final Guidance)* as a tool to accommodate county planning needs.

3. Require all revised LWRM plans to follow a 10 year planning horizon, and recognize the new annual work plan requirements when reviewing LWRM plan revisions for compliance with ATCP 50.

In making the transition from 5 to 10 year plan approvals, it was our intent to develop a rational and cohesive system for plan development and implementation review. By their nature, LWRM plans are strategic plans and should cover the same 10 year period as Farmland Preservation Plans, Comprehensive Plans and other strategic plans. Through annual work plans, counties have the flexibility to adjust their LWRM plans to address changing priorities and activities. By including review of LWRM plans every five years, the LWCB can work with the counties to assess their implementation activities and help identify potential mid-course adjustments. To ensure consistent planning and timely review of plan implementation, every county should be held to same standards. The system would breakdown if counties had the option to select 5 year plan approvals, and thereby avoid a five year review of plan implementation. Also it is neither efficient nor cost-effective to prepare and approve LWRM plans at intervals of less than 10 years.

In their review of LWRM plan revisions, DATCP and the LWCB will recognize the new annual work plans, and allow counties to rely on these annual plans in lieu of providing a more extensive catalogue of planned activities in connection with their description of goals and objectives. In their revised plans, counties may generally describe their goals and objectives, and highlight key activities to achieve these goals and objectives. DATCP and the LWCB will interpret this new system of annual work plans to satisfy the requirement for LWRM plan approval in ATCP 50.12(2)(j) related to “measurable annual and multi-year benchmarks” as long as the county continues to submit an annual work plan with measurable benchmarks each year during the period in which its LWRM plan is approved.

4. Reaffirm the criteria and procedures for LWCB reviews of LWRM plans at the five year mark during the 10 year approval period.

- Having completed the transition to 10 year plan approvals, five year reviews will assume a more important role in improving planning and implementation. Without the responsibility for evaluating five year extension requests, the LWCB will have the time to focus on conducting five year evaluations. The review procedures are included in both the *Interim Criteria for Recommending Approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plans Including Requirements to Secure 10-Year Approvals and 5-Year Extensions*, and the *2017 Final Guidance*. See Schedule below.

Schedule: The following covers the schedule for implementing program changes and publishing revised documentation describing revised programs requirements.

1. Effective immediately, discontinue use of the *County-Prepared Checklist to determine compliance with additional criteria for an LWCB recommendation for a 10-year approval and 5-year extension*.
2. Effective after February 2, 2016, modify *Final guidance on additional criteria for recommending approval of land and water resource management plans including requirements to secure 10-year approvals and 5-year extensions* adopted February 27, 2012 to strike Section I and the appendix. As revised, this document will be referred to as the *Interim Criteria for Recommending Approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plans Including Requirements to Secure 10-Year Approvals and 5-Year Extensions*. It will continue in effect through December 31, 2016, at which time it will be replaced by the *2017 Final Guidance* described in No. 4 below.
3. Retain the October 1, 2013 *DATCP Procedures for rescheduling or extending LWRM plans*, including the forms necessary to request formal extensions, through December 31, 2016. Replace the procedures and related document with the *2017 Final Guidance* described in No. 4 below.
4. Effective January 1, 2017, implement the *2017 Final Guidance regarding Work Plans, Rescheduling of Plan Revisions, and Five Year Plan Reviews*, which will take the place of the documents listed in Nos. 2-3 above.

Materials Provided:

- *Interim Criteria for Recommending Approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plans Including Requirements to Secure 10-Year Approvals and 5-Year Extensions* (with track changes to show modifications from February 27, 2012 guidance except that the work plan deletions are not shown in this manner)
- *2017 Final Guidance regarding Work Plans, Rescheduling of Plan Revisions, and Five Year Plan Reviews*.
- *Table Summarizing Requirements*

Presenters: Lisa Trumble and Richard Castelnuovo, DATCP

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ **STATE OF WISCONSIN**

DATE: February 2, 2016

TO: County Land Conservation Committees and Departments

FROM: Land and Water Conservation Board

SUBJECT: ~~Interim Final guidance on additional~~ criteria for recommending approval of land and water resource management plans including requirements to secure 10-year approvals and 5-year extensions

Modification and Effective Dates

This guidance replaces the final guidance adopted February 27, 2012, and makes modifications primarily to Section I and the appendix. As revised, this guidance will continue in effect through December 31, 2016, at which time it will be replaced by a January 1, 2017 Final Guidance.

Summary

~~The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) provides this additional guidance for counties to secure a recommendation of approval of their Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans. According to the preexisting LWCB guidance, Awhich was applicable to all LWRM plans that are presented beginning February 27, 2012, this guidance requires that counties were required:~~ (1) use better measures of anticipated county performance required in LWRM plans and work plans, and more clearly define high priority farm strategies, (2) meet standards for a 10 year approval of LWRM plans, including alternatives if counties fail to meet these standards, (3) undergo LWCB review at the 5 year mark if they have plans approved for 10 years, and (4) undergo LWCB review if they are seeking a 5 year extension of plans initially approved for 5 years. The guidance also describes the reporting and review process that will be used in the case of plans approved for a 10 year period and 5 year extensions for plans approved only for 5 years.

Background

When adopted in 2002, ATCP 50.12 ushered in new requirements for approval of county LWRM Plans including a provision that plans can be approved “for a specified period of time that shall not exceed 5 years, subject to conditions that the department specifies in the order.”

In 2004, members of the LWCB and DATCP staff evaluated plans submitted under these new rules. The purpose of the evaluation was to identify planning requirements that needed clarification and develop a set of recommendations to ensure that county plans were thoroughly and fairly evaluated. The recommendations to improve work plans included requirements that the county set priorities for goals, objectives and activities, and specify anticipated outcomes for high priority activities using measurable benchmarks (e.g. nutrient management plans covering 25,000 acres, 25 farmers trained, streams reclassified to a higher use, etc.). In addition, the Board recommended that counties identify priority farms using a systematic approach that focuses on geography (e.g. watersheds), resource issues (e.g. farms with high nutrient runoff)

and other appropriate factors that enable counties to implement the performance standards and other high priority activities.

In August 2007, the Board revisited the questions about how counties were meeting required elements in LWRM plans. DATCP explained that 2004 recommendations created more consistency in plans and made plan review easier, but noted that counties still used various approaches to meeting work plan requirements, particularly in the case of benchmarking priority activities. No further action was taken to address this issue. In managing this issue, DATCP plan reviewers continued to remain flexible in applying the recommendations to meet county needs while recognizing the intent of the recommendations.

At its June 3, 2008 meeting, the Board was asked to recognize the benefits of a 10 year plan horizon and to recommend a method for providing a 10 year approval of LWRM plans. A survey of the county LCDs indicated that counties wanted 10 year plans and were prepared to implement 10-year plan horizons. DATCP staff offered two options:

1. Have a county prepare a 10-year plan, and then grant a 5-year approval period with the understanding that the county could seek a 5-year extension to the approved plan.
2. Have a county prepare a 10-year plan, and then grant a 10-year approval, providing the authority to update the plan through a scaled-down formal process during the ten year approval period.

The Board considered the following reasons for adoption of the first option: (1) ATCP 50 currently only authorized DATCP to approve LWRM plans for 5 years, (2) this approach allowed counties the most flexibility, enabling counties that needed to make mid-course corrections an option to modify their plans and allowing those counties a simple process to extend their plans. Staff recommended counties seeking an extension be required to submit an updated work plan. The Board recommended the first option, allowing counties to write their LWRM plans for a 10-year period with a 5-year approval and a 5-year extension request.

From June 2008 to October 2011, the Board received plans with both 5 and 10 year planning horizons, and always recommended approval of plans for no more than 5 years, leaving open the option for counties to seek a 5 year extension to gain a 10 year approval. During this same period, DATCP continued to issue orders approving plans for 5 years, and included no reference in these orders to conditions upon which an extension would be granted.

Effective August 1, 2011, ATCP 50.12(5) was amended to allow DATCP to “approve a plan for a specified period of time that shall not exceed 10 years, subject to conditions that the department specifies in the order.” (Emphasis added)

At the October 4, 2011, LWCB meeting, the Board considered a 10 year approval of a plan prepared by Florence County for a 5 year horizon. After deliberation, the Board recommended a 5 year approval of the plan. By consensus, the Board agreed to put the question of 10 year plan approvals on its next agenda and asked for DATCP staff to provide input. At the same meeting the Board tabled two plans – for Oneida and Forest Counties – in order to allow these counties time to develop more specific, measurable benchmarks.

At its December 6, 2011 and February 7, 2012 meetings, the LWCB did the following: (1) established better measures of anticipated county performance required in LWRM plans and work plans, (2) clarified standards for a 10 year approval of LWRM plans, and alternatives for counties that fail to meet these standards, (3) defined the review and reporting process for the 5-year review of a LWRM plan approved for a 10 year period, and (4) set up a process and criteria that counties with 5 year plan approvals may use to extend their approval for an additional 5 years.

Guidance

The developments described in the prior section provide the background for the Board's action in revising the criteria previously applied to its review of LWRM plans. The Board has organized these additional criteria under the following four headings.

I. Improve measures of anticipated county performance required in LWRM plans and work plans, and strengthen the requirements for priority farm strategies

The LWCB will recognize and implement DATCP's new requirements for annual work plans when making recommendations regarding revised LWRM plans and in conducting its five year review of LWRM plans approved for 10 years.

To receive a LWCB recommendation of approval, all LWRM plan revisions, regardless of whether the approval is requested for 5 or 10 years, must:

- ~~1. Include specific, measurable benchmarks and targets for the following activities if appropriate for the county:
 - a. ~~Implementation of performance standards for farms~~
 - b. ~~Implementation of stormwater management and related urban standards~~
 - e. ~~Farmland Preservation conservation compliance~~
 - d. ~~Groundwater protection: quality and quantity~~
 - e. ~~Permit and ordinance administration~~
 - f. ~~Lake and stream protection (e.g. shoreline protected, invasive species management)~~
 - g. ~~Watershed protection (e.g. Phosphorus reduction/trading, TMDL, Nitrogen management)~~
 - h. ~~Program evaluation and monitoring~~
 - i. ~~Spending of state cost share funds~~
 - j. ~~Forestry management~~~~

- ~~2. Use the attached template in preparing work plans in the following manner:
 - a. ~~Describe planned activities using the examples in the template to develop measureable benchmarks of appropriate activities (these examples in the template including benchmarks were drawn from actual county work plans)~~
 - b. ~~Use the format of the template to convey adequate information about the benchmarked activity including the objective, activities, responsible parties, timeframe, anticipated annual outcomes, and I & E tools.~~~~

- ~~3. Describe a priority farm strategy that is designed to effectively implement state performance standards and conservation practices on farms within the county, identifies the specific conditions such as cropland nutrient runoff that will be addressed, and provides an adequate framework to evaluate whether counties are making reasonable progress in implementing all high priority activities (including locally established priorities).~~

II. Establish standards for a 10 year approval of LWRM plans, and alternatives for counties that fail to meet these standards

No LWRM plan revision will be recommended for 10 year approval, unless the revised planning documents:

1. Have been developed with the intent to cover a 10 year planning horizon. The intent for a 10 year horizon may be evidenced by language in the planning documents satisfying one or more of the following:
 - a. The local advisory committee specifically considered this longer horizon when they made their recommendations
 - b. The planning documents make a reasonable attempt to identify and analyze resource needs for a period of at least 10 years into the future.
 - c. The planning documents make a reasonable attempt to forecast applicable trends for a period of at least 10 years into the future.
 - d. The planning documents make a reasonable attempt to identify existing and anticipated priorities, with the understanding that changes are likely within the 10 year planning period.
 - e. The plan describes the process for reviewing and updating objectives and activities during the 10 year period, including changes needed as a result of annual work planning and a five year review before the LWCB (see III and IV below).
2. Meet the requirements in section I above, ~~for benchmarking high priority activities and the description of the priority farm strategies, with the understanding that counties continue to submit updated work plans with their annual grant applications to reflect any changes in activities and priorities.~~

If a revised plan fails to meet the requirements for a 10 year approval, the LWCB will require the county to address the items not meeting the requirements, and direct the county to reschedule its appearance before the LWCB when its plan is revised. ~~recommend approval of the plan for a 5 year period, with the option for the county to secure a 5 year extension of its LWRM plan.~~

III. Define county reporting requirements and scope of the LWCB 5-year review for counties with 10 year plan approvals

As part of its 5-year review of a county's LWRM plan with 10 year approval, the LWCB:

1. Will require that counties meet the following reporting obligations:

- a. Discuss the reasons for setting the resource management outcomes identified in its LWRM plan.
 - b. Explain the relationship between its benchmarked activities and the resource management outcomes identified in its LWRM plan.
 - c. Explain how it will make sufficient incremental gains through its benchmarked activities to achieve reasonable progress in accomplishing its natural resource outcomes.
 - d. Provide budgetary and other justifications to support the benchmarks it sets for implementing activities.
 - e. Describe how its priority farm strategy will be effective in implementing the performance standards and conservation practices on farms.
 - f. Provide a report describing its progress in meeting the specific, measurable benchmarks for the relevant activities over the last five years.
 - g. Describe how it carried out its priority farm strategy and the effectiveness of its actions implementing the performance standards and conservation practices on farms.
 - h. Describe the evaluation process it used to assess its implementation of its plan and make adjustments to account for unanticipated conditions.
2. Will perform the following functions as part of the Board's review process:
- a. Assess the validity of the county's benchmarking process in light of the conservation and other resource outcomes identified in county's LWRM plan and the resources available to the county.
 - b. Assess the effectiveness of the county's priority farm strategy in implementing the performance standards and conservation practices on farms.
 - c. Assess the adequacy of the county's progress implementing benchmarked and other activities over the last five years, including the effectiveness of the county's strategy in implementing the performance standards and conservation practices on farms.
 - d. Compare benchmarked activities and county implementation efforts in a systematic manner to assess overall performance.
 - e. Review the strengths and weaknesses of the county evaluation process used to assess the county's implementation of its plan and to make adjustments to account for unanticipated conditions.
 - f. Ensure that the county is actively managing its work plan to account for changes in conditions.
3. May take the following additional actions as part of Board's review:
- a. As part of a peer review process, assign another county or other conservation professional to help evaluate the performance of the county whose plan is up for review ("planning county").
 - b. Require the planning county to re-evaluate its planning process for setting outcomes and benchmarking activities.

- c. Require the planning county, if appropriate, to prepare written revisions to parts of their planning documents to reflect the results of the review and better account for changed conditions.
- d. Require the planning county to present follow-up reports after the scheduled five year review to the LWCB if needed to address unresolved concerns.

IV. Define county reporting requirements and scope of the LWCB review for counties seeking a 5 year extension of their 5-year LWRM plan approvals

Note: As a prerequisite of an extension request, counties must have a work plan that meets the newest benchmark requirements and a priority farm strategy that meets the newest Board requirements.

As part of its decision to grant a 5 year extension of a county's LWRM plan, the LWCB will:

- 1. Follow the same requirements outlined in III.1.a.-h. above.
- 2. Follow the same requirements outlined III.2a.-f. above.
- 3. Follow the same requirements outlined III.3.a.-d. above.
- ~~4. Add an additional requirement that the county board approve the 5 year extension.~~

Note: Separate from the above criteria for 5 year plan extensions, DATCP staff will continue to approve short-term extensions not to exceed 5 years to accommodate county needs including efforts to coordinate different planning activities (e.g. comprehensive planning, farmland preservation planning).

~~To receive a LWCB recommendation of approval, all LWRM plan revisions, regardless of whether the approval is requested for 5 or 10 years, must include specific, measurable benchmarks and targets for the following activities *if appropriate for the county*:~~

~~Implementation of performance standards for farms~~

~~Implementation of stormwater management and related urban standards~~

~~Farmland Preservation conservation compliance~~

~~Groundwater Protection: Quantity and Quality~~

~~Permit and ordinance administration~~

~~Lake and stream protection (e.g. shoreline protected, invasive species management)~~

~~Watershed protection (e.g. Phosphorus reduction/trading, TMDL, Nitrogen management)~~

~~Program evaluation and monitoring~~

~~Spending of state cost share funds~~

~~Forestry management~~

~~Counties should use the following template and examples to meet the Board's expectations. The template provides the format for counties to document their planned activities and set benchmarks. In addition to setting anticipated annual outcomes, this format requires that counties include the following for each area where benchmarking is required: the overall objective, actions, key actors, timeframe, expected costs and I& E tools.~~

~~It is helpful to keep in mind that a county's goal defines the purpose towards which an endeavor is directed, while the objective is more specific than a goal, and should be measureable, specific, and clear. Even more specific are the actions or activities that explain what, who, how, and when.~~

~~Within this framework, counties will remain free to control the content of their work plans. The examples in the templates were taken from existing county LWRM plans. The examples are not meant to shoehorn local plan priorities, but serve to stimulate thought regarding how to develop and describe specific, measurable benchmarks that the county has determined are local priorities. Note that in these examples, **priorities are bolded**.~~

~~It might be valuable to consider whether a statement of desired outcomes would be helpful in the evaluation and review process, or to clarify to other potential funders what you are doing, how, and why.~~

Note: The *Interim Criteria* strikes the 11-page template but

**2017 FINAL GUIDANCE REGARDING WORK PLANS,
RESCHEDULING OF PLAN REVISION, AND FIVE
YEAR PLAN REVIEWS**

Introduction

This Final Guidance, which is effective on January 1, 2017, replaces the following documents:

1. *Interim Criteria for Recommending Approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plans Including Requirements to Secure 10-Year Approvals and 5-Year Extensions*, adopted February 2, 2016, and discontinued as of December 31, 2016.
2. *The County-Prepared Checklist to determine compliance with additional criteria for an LWCB recommendation for a 10-year approval and 5-year extension*, discontinued as of February 2, 2016.
3. *The October 1, 2013 Procedures for rescheduling or extending LWRM plans*, including the forms necessary to request formal extensions, which was discontinued as of December 31, 2016.

This *2017 Final Guidance* covers Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plan requirements (including work plan requirements), management of expiring LWRM plans, and LWCB five year reviews of LWRM plans approved for 10 years.

A. LWRM Plan Requirements (including Work Plans)

I. Ten year LWRM plan approvals

1. In making the transition from 5 to 10 year plan approvals, DATCP and the LWCB intended to develop a rational and cohesive system for plan development and implementation review. Ten year LWRM plan approvals are critical to this process. By their nature, LWRM plans are strategic plans and should cover the same 10 year period as Farmland Preservation Plans, Comprehensive Plans and other strategic plans. Through annual work plans, counties have the flexibility to adjust their LWRM plans to address changing priorities and activities. By including review of LWRM plans every five years, the LWCB can work with the counties to assess their implementation activities and create opportunities for mid-course adjustments in plan implementation. To ensure consistent planning and timely review of plan implementation, every county should be held to same standards, which begins with plans approved for a 10 year period. Also, it is neither efficient nor cost-effective to prepare and approve LWRM plans at intervals of less than 10 years.
2. In preparing revised LWRM plans for 10 year approval, counties will be expected to make a reasonable attempt to: (i) develop recommendations with a local advisory committee for a 10 year period, (ii) identify and analyze resource needs for a period of at least 10 years into the future, (iii) forecast applicable trends 10 years into the future, (iv) set short- and long-term priorities, with the understanding that changes are likely within

the 10 year planning period, and (v) describe the process for monitoring, evaluating and adjusting planned activities during the 10 year approval period.

3. DATCP will evaluate county plan revisions to determine if they meet the requirements for 10 year plan approval, including planning over a 10 year horizon, and take actions to ensure that all plan revisions include required components.
4. If a revised plan fails to meet the requirements for a 10 year approval, the LWCB will require the county to address the items not meeting the requirements, and direct the county to reschedule its appearance before the LWCB when its plan is revised.

II. Priority farm strategy

1. A DATCP-completed LWRM plan review checklist provides the assurance that the county has met the requirements for its priority farm strategy.

III. Work plan procedures and standards

1. Counties will be required to submit annual work plans that meet requirements identified in the grant applications. These requirements include use of a standardized format (including a limit on page length), identification of priority activities only, benchmarking of activities for performance outcomes, and estimation of costs. These requirements mesh with those spelled out in the May 2014 LWRM plan review checklist developed by DATCP.
2. A DATCP-completed LWRM plan review checklist, combined with the annual submission of work plans, now provides assurance that counties are engaged in meaningful work planning including benchmarking for activities to measure performance.
3. Counties will satisfy the requirement in s. ATCP 50.12(2)(i) for submission of a multi-year work plan with their LWRM plan revisions by (i) submitting their most current annual work plan at the time of their plan revision, and (ii) continuing to submit annual work plans that meet planning requirements during the life of their approved LWRM plan.
4. Counties may use annual work plan updates to capture changes in planned activities within the goals and objective defined in their LWRM plans. For example, a work plan update could account for participation in a multi-discharger variance effort designed to reduce phosphorus.

IV. Requirements for work plan submission related to LWRM plan revisions

1. Counties may rely on their annual work plans in lieu of submitting more extensive work plans at the time of a LWRM plan revision.
2. As part of their LWRM plan revision, counties may expand on their required annual work plans to include additional goals, objectives and planned activities. Additional activities do not need to have performance benchmarks.
3. By preparing an annual work plan, a county will satisfy the requirement for LWRM plan approval in ATCP 50.12(2)(j) related to “measurable annual and multi-year benchmarks” as long as the county submits an annual work plan with measurable benchmarks each year during which DATCP has approved the LWRM plan.

B. MANAGEMENT OF EXPIRING LWRM PLANS

I. Procedure to reschedule a LWCB presentation of LWRM plan revisions

1. A county may request that its LWCB appearance be delayed for some months, but no later than February of the year after plan expiration.

Note: Rescheduling changes the date of a county's appearance from one Board meeting to another, generally within the same year. Rescheduling does not change the expiration date of a county's plan. In certain cases, when a county reschedules its plan presentation, the county's existing plan approval may expire before the county receives a new order approving its revised LWRM plan. Until a new plan approval order is issued, the county is technically not eligible to receive new grant funding from DATCP.

2. The county will submit a request to reschedule to the LWRM planner (currently Lisa Trumble, Lisa.Trumble@wisconsin.gov) as soon as it becomes apparent that the LWRM plan will not be completed and reviewed prior to the scheduled meeting.
3. The county may request this rescheduling without completing and submitting a separate form.
4. The LWRM planner checks the LWCB calendar, and coordinates the decision with the internal staff and LWCB chair as needed.
5. The LWRM planner reschedules the appearance and notifies the county, LWCB, and DATCP staff of new date.

II. No extension requests for expiring LWRM plans

1. DATCP and LWCB have discontinued a formal process for requesting extensions related to expiring LWRM plans. With the completion of the transition to 10 year plan approvals, a formal extension process serves no purpose since DATCP is precluded by rule from extending plans approved for 10 years.
2. Exceptions, if requested, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and DATCP will not approve an extension if it determines that the waiver of Ch. ATCP 50 is not appropriate, or the county has the opportunity to reschedule under B.I.

C. Five-Year Review of LWRM plans approved for 10 years

As part of its 5-year review of a county's LWRM plan, the LWCB:

I. Will require that counties meet the following reporting obligations:

1. Discuss the reasons for setting the resource management outcomes identified in its LWRM plan.
2. Explain the relationship between benchmarked activities in annual work plans and the resource management outcomes identified in a county's LWRM plan.
3. Provide a report describing county progress in meeting the specific, measurable benchmarks for the relevant activities over the last five years.

4. Describe how the county carried out its priority farm strategy and the effectiveness of its actions implementing the performance standards and conservation practices on farms.
5. Describe the county's evaluation process used to assess implementation of its plan and mechanisms to make adjustments that account for unanticipated conditions.
6. Discuss budgetary, staffing and other considerations that have affected or will affect implementation of planned activities.
7. Discuss possible changes in planned activities and benchmarks that would enhance capacity to make progress in accomplishing desired natural resource outcomes.

II. Will perform the following functions as part of the Board's review process:

1. Assess the validity of the county's benchmarking process in light of the conservation and other resource outcomes identified in county's LWRM plan and the resources available to the county.
2. Assess the effectiveness of the county's priority farm strategy in implementing the performance standards and conservation practices on farms.
3. Assess the adequacy of the county's progress implementing benchmarked and other activities over the last five years, including the effectiveness of the county's strategy in implementing the performance standards and conservation practices on farms.
4. Compare benchmarked activities and county implementation efforts in a systematic manner to assess overall performance.
5. Review the strengths and weaknesses of the county evaluation process used to assess the county's implementation of its plan and to make adjustments to account for unanticipated conditions.
6. Ensure that the county is actively managing its work plan to account for changes in conditions.

III. May take the following additional actions as part of Board's review:

- a. As part of a peer review process, assign another county or other conservation professional to help evaluate the performance of the county whose plan is up for review ("planning county").
- b. Require the planning county to re-evaluate its planning process for setting outcomes and benchmarking activities.
- c. Require the planning county, if appropriate, to prepare written revisions to parts of their planning documents to reflect the results of the review and better account for changed conditions.
- d. Require the planning county to present follow-up reports after the scheduled five year review to the LWCB if needed to address unresolved concerns.

Summary of Requirements			
Item	Past Requirements Pre-February 2016	Interim Requirements February -December 31, 2016	Final Requirements Post-January, 2017
<i>Length of LWRM plan approvals</i>	5 or 10 years	10 years	
<i>DATCP checklist documenting that revised LWRM plans meet legal requirements</i>	Completed by DATCP and submitted to LWCB as a condition of plan approval	Complete and submit to LWCB as previously required, and DATCP will ensure that plans cover a 10 year planning horizon and other requirements	
<i>LWCB checklist regarding work planning and 10 year plan horizon</i>	Completed by county and submitted to LWCB with five year plan extension requests and 10 year plan approvals	Discontinue requirement; new work plan requirements and DATCP review will address	
<i>Annual work plans submitted by counties on April 15th</i>	Used any format; benchmarked county-identified priority activities; certified that a current plan was on file at the time of the annual grant application	Use required format (length limit of 4 pages); benchmark DATCP and county-identified activities (include only priorities); submit a revised or other work plan with annual grant application	
<i>Work plan submitted by counties as part of LWRM plan revisions</i>	Prepared full blown work plan, unlimited in size, describing all activities planned for a multi-year period	Submit most current work plan at the time of plan revision, and continue submitting annual plans during each year of the plan approval period	
<i>LWRM plan extensions (1-3 years) submitted by counties</i>	Requested following separate Board-approved procedure and using required DATCP form	Request according to previously established procedure, and use previously approved form	No longer available as a routine procedure; must rely on rescheduling to manage expiring LWRM plans
<i>LWRM plan extensions (5 years) submitted by counties</i>	Requested following separate Board-approved procedure and using required DATCP form, and LWCB checklist	Request according to previously established procedure, and use previously approved form (LWCB checklist no longer required)	No longer available as a routine procedure; must rely on rescheduling to manage expiring LWRM plans
<i>County rescheduling of Board review of LWRM plan</i>	Submitted a request to the DATCP plan coordinator, who made adjustment	Submit request to DATCP plan coordinator, who makes adjustment following DATCP policy	
<i>Five year review of LWRM plans approved for 10 years</i>	No reviews conducted, but procedure established	Schedule a LWCB appearance as coordinated between county and DATCP planner; county presents data on progress in implementing plan and meets other requirements as directed by LWCB according their guidance (no LWCB checklist required to track work plans)	

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM _____ State of Wisconsin

DATE: January 22, 2016

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Keith Foye, DATCP 
Land and Water Resources Bureau

Pam Biersach, DNR 
Bureau of Watershed Management

SUBJECT: Biennial budget process and the nonpoint program

Recommended Action: This is a not an action item. However, the Board may vote to accept this report from staff.

Background: The state budget process is described in detail in *State Budget Process*, Informational Paper 74, http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2015/0074_state_budget_process_informational_paper_74.pdf. This publication (p. 24) explains the different purposes of state appropriation such as Local Assistance (e.g. DATCP staffing grant), and Aids (e.g. cost-share grants). It also describes the sources of funding used for appropriations (p. 26) including General Purpose Revenue (GPR), Program Revenue (PR), Segregated Revenue (SEG), Federal Revenue (FED), and Bond Revenue (BR). FED funds are not considered in the following discussion since they are outside the scope of the state budget process.

In the case of appropriations for nonpoint pollution control, SEG appropriations from the nonpoint account of the environmental fund are a major source of support. These funds support agency and county staff, landowner cost-sharing for "soft" practices, and other conservation projects. BR appropriations are another important component used to fund cost-sharing for manure storage, streambank and other "hard" conservation practices. For a more detailed understanding of both recent and historical funding of nonpoint pollution control, review *Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement And Soil Conservation Programs*, Informational Paper 70, http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2015/0070_nonpoint_source_water_pollution_informational_paper_70.pdf.

The steps involved in developing the biennial budget are summarized in *Chart 2 Wisconsin's Biennial Budget Flow Chart* and DOA's *State Biennial Budget Timeline Primer* (both of which are attached). The agencies' budget proposals must be submitted by September 15 in even years. Agencies occasionally consult with the Governor's staff and the Division of Executive Budget and Finance in the Department of Administration during the earliest stages in the process, prior to budget submittal.

In developing a state budget, Wisconsin uses what is called "incremental budgeting." This means that agency budget requests for an upcoming biennium use, as a starting point, the amounts last budgeted for their programs (i.e. base budget).

In preparing the 2017-2019 budget, the starting point for the appropriations would be the 2015-2017 biennial budget, 2015 ACT 55, <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/acts/55.pdf>. In addition to the Act 55 appropriation amounts, the base budget also includes any legislative or statutory changes

that occurred during the intervening budget years (in this case, FY16 and FY17) which modified agencies' appropriation or position authority. The following are the current base budget amounts for the areas covered by the annual nonpoint funding allocation plan (unless otherwise specified, these are annual appropriations for 2016–2017):

Staff and Support Grants

\$ 5,711,900 DATCP SEG from s. 20.115(7)(qe), Stats.
 \$ 3,027,200 DATCP GPR from s. 20.115(7)(c), Stats.
 \$ 700,000 DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(dq), Stats.

Cost-share

\$7,000,000 DATCP Bond from s. 20.866(2)(we), Stats, for use over two years.
 \$2,500,000 DATCP SEG from 20.115(7) (qf), Stats., less \$250,000 set aside for producer-led watershed council grants and funding for cooperator grants.
 \$5,900,000 DNR Bond Revenue from s. 20.866(2)(tf), Stats., for use over two years.
 \$100,000 DNR SEG from s. 20.370(6)(aq), Stats.
 \$3,000,000 DNR Bond Revenue from s. 20.866(2)(th), Stats., for use over two years.

In preparing a budget, other factors come into the mix. State agencies operate under budget instructions that define how they may develop their budget request. For example, the governor may require no increases for certain budget items.

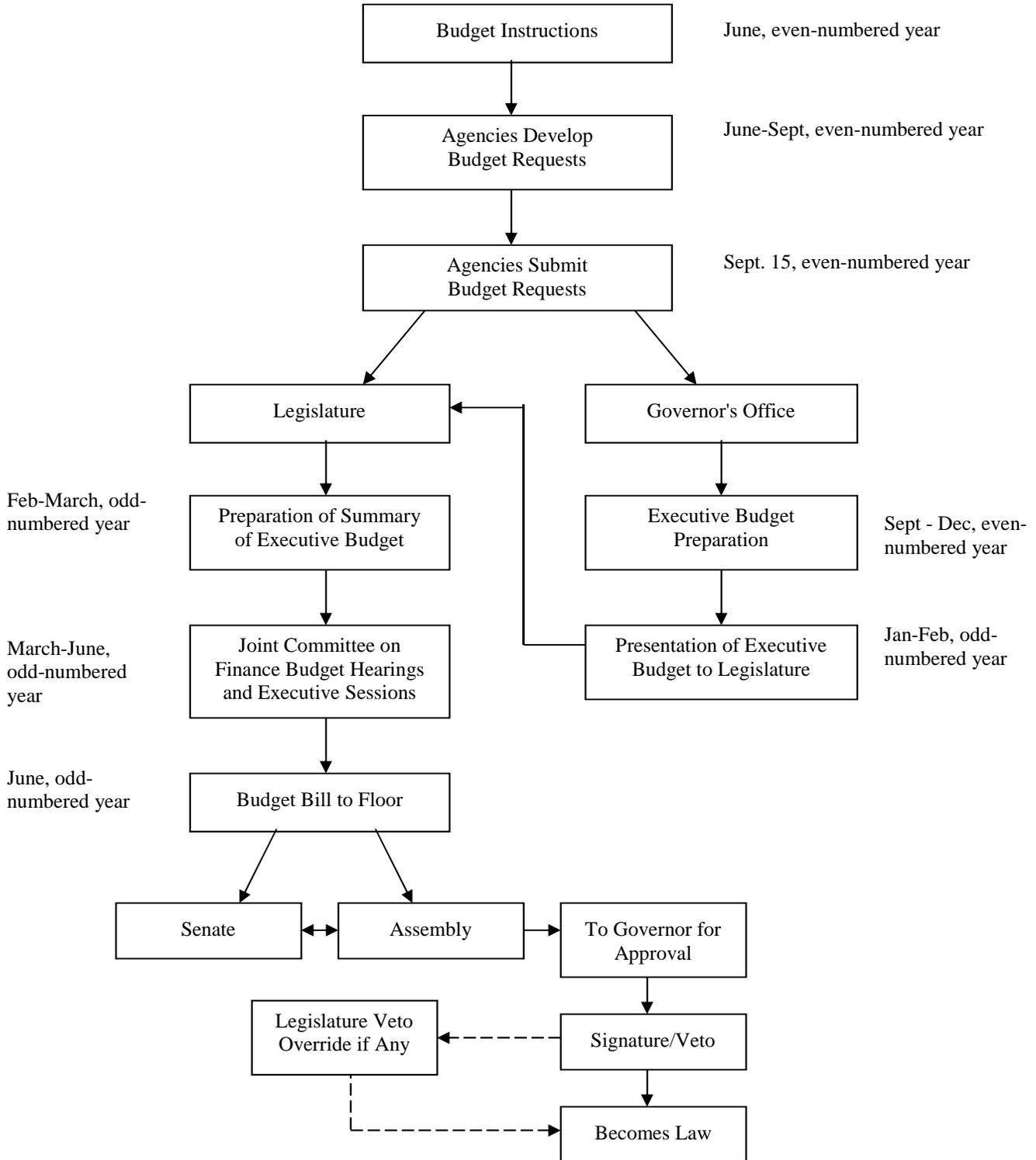
In the case of the funds annually allocated by DATCP and DNR, elected officials at some point during the process may consider the fund condition of the nonpoint account in making SEG appropriations. According to the Nonpoint Account Condition (see attached) prepared in May 2015 as part of Budget Paper #136, *Nonpoint Account Management and Conservation Staffing*, http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2015_17_biennial_budget/300_budget_papers/136_agriculture_trade_and_consumer_protection_nonpoint_account_management_and_conservation_staffing.pdf, the nonpoint account is challenged by flat or declining revenues, and increasing liabilities for payment of debt service. Under Act 55, the nonpoint account received a one-time transfer of \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year from Agricultural Chemical Cleanup funds in order to ensure a long-term positive fund balance.

Materials: *CHART 2 Wisconsin's Biennial Budget Flow Chart*, January, 2015; *Nonpoint Account Condition*, from Budget Paper # 136, May, 2015; DOA's *State Biennial Budget Timeline Primer*, February, 2014.

PRESENTERS: Richard Castelnovo, DATCP, and MaryAnne Lowndes, DNR.

CHART 2

Wisconsin's Biennial Budget Flow Chart



State Biennial Budget Timeline Primer

- Agencies Begin Budget Preparation in Spring of even-numbered years
 - Divisional Meetings/Concerns
 - Stakeholder Meetings
 - Special Initiatives/Priorities
 - Budget Concerns/Shortfall
- Some Agencies, depending on governance structure, require Board approval of proposed Agency Budget
- Budget Instructions (late Spring of even years)
 - Department of Administration Division of Budget issues instructions on preparation of budget requests
 - Includes technical advice on budget submissions, such as limiting requests to cost-to-continue, across-the-board cuts, items for exclusion, and related.
 - Separate policy document is issued later in June
- Agencies complete budget request through the summer and submit to the Governor and Legislature
 - During this time, additional technical instructions and guidance are issued by the Budget Office
- Agency deadline to submit budget is September 15
- From September to January, the Governor's Office, working closely with the budget office, state agencies, and stakeholders, develops the Executive Budget
 - November 20 report is issued, which summarizes expected revenues and expenditures as requested by the agencies for the upcoming biennium.
 - This document outlines the gap/surplus between agency requested appropriation authority and projected revenues
- Executive Budget Presentation
 - Budget Bill is Introduced as Senate or Assembly bill in late January or early February of odd-number year

- Governor and certain Executive Staff make budget presentation throughout the state
- Legislative Fiscal Bureau provides summary documents and policy papers (February – April)
- Legislators hold 3-4 public hearings throughout the state for stakeholders, citizens and others to provide testimony related to the bill (March – April)
 - Other stakeholder groups are likely to continue to meet with legislators and agencies separately on areas of interest
- Joint Finance Committee of the Legislature begins deliberations on the bill (April – June)
 - Agencies may provide testimony on the Executive Budget to the Committee
 - Fiscal Bureau Policy Papers, which outline several options on individual budget items are issued and voted upon
 - Separate motions may be issued during deliberations
- Joint Finance Committee votes out bill to full legislature for a vote.
 - Additional amendments to the Joint Finance Bill may be added by Assembly or Senate
 - In rare occasions, a conference committee may be required to reach consensus on the Budget Bill (2007-09)
 - Ideally, the budget is passed “on time,” which is prior to June 30 of the odd year
- Governor and State Budget Office consider budget items for veto
- Legislature has opportunity to override vetoes
- Bill is signed by Governor and turns into law

Submitted by Caitlin Frederick, Department of Administration, on February 12, 2014

ATTACHMENT

Nonpoint Account Condition

	Actual 2013-14	Estimated 2014-15	Bill 2015-16	Bill 2016-17	2016-17 Staff
Opening Balance	\$18,320,600	\$16,741,200	\$18,071,000	\$18,025,500	
Revenue:					
GPR Transfer	\$11,143,600	\$11,143,600	\$11,143,600	\$11,143,600	
Tipping Fee	13,432,800	19,950,000*	17,100,000	17,100,000	
Interest and Miscellaneous Income	27,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Other Transfers **	<u>650,000</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	
Total Revenue	\$25,253,400	\$32,403,600	\$29,253,600	\$29,253,600	
Total Available	\$43,574,000	\$49,144,800	\$47,324,600	\$47,279,100	
Expenditures:					
<i>Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection</i>					
Soil and water management					
administration	\$2,176,000	\$2,187,900	\$2,286,100	\$2,297,300	20.30
County staffing grants	4,981,100	5,852,800	5,036,900	5,036,900	0.00
Soil and water management grants	1,581,700	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	0.00
Debt service	3,555,500	3,707,600	3,967,200	4,087,700	0.00
<i>Natural Resources</i>					
Enforcement and science operations	--	--	\$37,500	\$37,500	0.38
Integrated science services	\$454,700	\$423,000	445,200	445,200	4.00
Nonpoint source contracts	31,800	997,600	227,600	227,600	0.00
TMDL and Wisconsin Waters	729,800	806,900	820,800	820,800	4.25
Animal feeding operations admin.	575,200	582,100	619,700	619,700	7.00
Urban nonpoint source grants	287,400	1,313,200	500,000	500,000	0.00
Debt service – Facilities	109,300	114,200	103,000	103,700	0.00
Debt service – Priority watershed	7,851,600	7,931,700	7,767,600	6,910,300	0.00
Debt service – TRM	1,226,800	1,283,700	1,523,800	1,722,400	0.00
Debt service – UNPS	2,894,700	2,988,000	3,132,800	3,152,500	0.00
Administrative operations	211,800	214,600	200,700	203,600	0.08
Customer assistance and communication	<u>165,400</u>	<u>170,500</u>	<u>130,200</u>	<u>130,200</u>	<u>0.60</u>
Total Expenditures	\$26,832,800	\$31,073,800	\$29,299,100	\$28,795,400	36.61
Cash Balance	\$16,741,200	\$18,071,000	\$18,025,500	\$18,483,700	
Encumbrances/Continuing	<u>- 12,705,100</u>	<u>- 12,705,100</u>	<u>- 12,705,100</u>	<u>- 12,705,100</u>	
Available Balance	\$4,036,100	\$5,365,900	\$5,320,400	\$5,778,600 ***	

* Tipping fee revenues for 2014-15 include \$17.2 million in current year (base) collections, and an estimated \$2.7 million in prior year collections.

** Transfers include \$1.95 million from the environmental management account in the 2013-15 biennium and \$2.0 million recommended by the Governor for the 2015-17 biennium from the agricultural chemical cleanup fund.

*** The June 30, 2017, balance would increase to approximately \$6.7 million if the administration implemented suggested 10% reductions to DATCP and DNR operations expenditures.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: January 22, 2016

TO: Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

FROM: Keith Foye, DATCP 
Land and Water Resources Bureau

SUBJECT: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Update

Recommended Action: No action necessary. This report is for informational purposes only.

Summary: The Wisconsin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has been in place since October 2001 when Wisconsin signed a CREP agreement with USDA authorizing DATCP and USDA to enroll 100,000 acres into CREP. The agreement continues to allow “new enrollments subject to the availability of funds, so long as there is statutory authority for such enrollments.” On February 7, 2014 congress passed the 2014 Farm Bill which extended authority for enrollment in CREP to September 30, 2018.

Through the partnership of local, State and Federal offices, the Wisconsin CREP program has seen continued landowner participation and enrollment since its inception. To date, Wisconsin has paid a total of about \$13.1 million to 4,298 landowners on about 46,600 acres. State CREP payments, together with \$2.66 million in county costs to implement CREP locally, leverage over \$100 million in federal funds for CREP that will be paid out to landowners over the life of the contracts. These existing CREP contracts will begin to expire in September 2016, and landowners will be given an option to reenroll their land into the program. Also, landowner enrollment in new areas of Wisconsin have been proposed as several county land conservation committees petitioned DATCP to expand the CREP eligible area in their county. DATCP and the State FSA have drafted an amendment to the Federal CREP contract to address reenrollment and expand the CREP eligible areas for the requesting counties.

The county CREP spending authority allocations will need to be adjusted in 2016 to meet reenrollment needs and account for counties with additional eligible CREP areas. The process to amend the CREP spending authority provides counties an opportunity to discuss the proposed spending authority levels with the LWCB, with the LWCB making a final recommendation to the DATCP Secretary. This presentation will provide background information for the LWCB on these items for future consideration.

Materials Provided: None

Presenter: Brian C. Loeffelholz

NRCS Wisconsin Update

Fiscal Year 2016 EQIP

NRCS–Wisconsin is accepting EQIP applications for FY2016 funding. The next application deadline is March 4, 2016. EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 90 basic conservation practices. Last year, Wisconsin received about \$23 million in funds for EQIP practices.

Special Opportunities

Applications are also being accepted for the following to offer technical and financial assistance through EQIP:

On-Farm Energy: NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. Audit data is used to develop energy conservation recommendations. The Landscape AgEMP assesses equipment and farming processes. The farm headquarters AgEMP assesses power usage and efficiency in livestock buildings, grain handling operations, and similar facilities to support the farm operation.

Organic: NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers, working to achieve organic certification, install conservation practices to address resource concerns on organic operations.

Seasonal High Tunnel (Hoop House): NRCS helps producers plan and implement high tunnels - steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment, and better air quality due to fewer vehicles being needed to transport crops. Supporting conservation practices such as grassed waterways, and diversions are available to address resource concerns on operations with Seasonal High Tunnel structures.

Honey Bee: The upper Midwest is the resting ground for over 65 percent of commercially managed honey bees in the country. The NRCS is helping farmers and landowners implement conservation practices that will provide safe and diverse food sources for honey bees. Pasture management, wildlife habitat, and appropriate cover crops are used as tools to improve the health of our honey bees, which support more than \$15 billion worth of agricultural production.

NRCS Programs Financial Update

Program		FY15	FY16
EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$23.2 mil. ^a	\$19.3 mil. ^b
	Contracts	1,097	TBD
CSP Conservation Stewardship Program	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$24.1 mil.	\$18.7 mil. ^b
	New Contracts	219	TBD
	Renewal Contracts	550	324
	Total Active Contracts	2,505	2,271
	New Acres	348,385	TBD
	Total Acres	991,251	921,250
ACEP – ALE Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easements	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$375K	\$276K
	Agreements	2	TBD
	Parcels	4	TBD
	Acres	240	TBD
ACEP – WRE Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements	Financial Assistance Allocation	\$2.4 mil.	\$2.6 mil.
	Easements	8	TBD
	Acres	418	TBD
RCCP Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Agreements (FY14/15 Funds)	4	TBD
	Agreements (FY15/16 Funds)	7 Projects Selected for Full Proposal Submission	TBD

^a Includes initiatives and special funding.

^b Additional contracts will be obligated in FY2015.

Landscape Initiatives

NRCS is targeting conservation assistance to critical resources through a number of landscape scale initiatives. Applications for initiatives can be submitted any time and are evaluated periodically for funding.

Great Lakes Restoration: NRCS and the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) established the Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network. GLC and Brown and Outagamie Counties are working with seven demo/satellite demo farms in the Lower Fox Watershed that demonstrate the best, leading-edge conservation practices to reduce phosphorus and improve water quality. These farms also promote innovative conservation practices, improve soil health, and establish farmer participation through peer-to-peer data sharing.

National Water Quality: The initiative is committed to improving impaired waterways throughout the nation. Big Green Lake watershed in Green Lake County is a priority watershed. Two other watersheds are currently being evaluated for inclusion in FY16.

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed: NRCS and partners will help producers in selected watersheds in the Mississippi River Basin voluntarily implement conservation practices that avoid, control, and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity. In FY16, Kickapoo River Watershed and Rush River are the focus areas for this initiative.

Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership: Located in Northern Wisconsin's Beartrap-Nemadji and Bad-Montreal Watersheds to improve the Lake Superior basin. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS offers special funding to help farmers improve farm and livestock operations while improving water quality. The NRCS will also have additional funds available to help forest landowners improve timber quality and deer and grouse habitat while improving habitat for at-risk species.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program: RCPP projects approved in 2015 were American Bird Conservancy, Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, City of Oconomowoc, and Sauk County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department. New project awards for FY16 are anticipated to be announced soon.

Conservation Stewardship Program

Provides assistance to landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years. A signup deadline is anticipated to be announced shortly.

ACEP

In FY15 Wisconsin enrolled eight easements under the Wetland Reserve Easements program and two agreements under the Agricultural Land Easements program enrolling 640 new acres in ACEP. Application deadline for FY16 funding was January 15, 2016. Application are being evaluated.

System for Award Management

Notice to current and potential federal government grant and contract recipients: Entities with an EIN other than a personal social security number who are current and potential Federal Government grant and contract recipients MUST obtain a DUNS number and register in the System for Award Management (SAM). SAM is the official U.S. Government registration system for grants and contract recipients. Registrations and renewals are **FREE**.

Client Gateway

Farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners can now do business with NRCS through an online portal. Conservation Client Gateway gives producers the ability to work with conservation planners online to access Farm Bill programs, request assistance, and track payments for their conservation activities. To register visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/>.