

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

- Land Conservation Commission •

Date: Monday June 19, 2023 **Time:** 1:00 pm

Location: Ag Resource Center, Room 103 & 104

227 1st Street West, Altoona, WI 54720

Join WebEx Meeting:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m2a27806ca9890757a020a674db19a>

Meeting number: 2599 754 2904, Password: ifFMehiz823

**Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.*

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 25997542904##

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Chad Berge at

chad.berge@eauclairecounty.gov at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

AGENDA

1. Call to order by the Chair
2. Roll call
3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law
4. Public Comment Period
5. Review/Approval of the May 15, 2023, meeting minutes (Discussion/Action) **Pages 2-4**
6. Review Vouchers and Ledger Update (Discussion) **Page 5**
7. Approval of new and/or previously authorized Cost-Share agreements (Discussion/Action) **Pages 6-10**
8. LCD Performance Management modifications (Discussion) **Page 11**
9. Review of the 2022 LCD Annual Report (Discussion) **Pages 12-27**
10. Discuss potential LCC Tour sites (Discussion)
11. Committee, Staff and Agency Updates
 - a. Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition
 - b. Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program
 - c. Land Stewardship Subcommittee
 - d. USDA-NRCS / FSA
 - e. DNR/Forestry
 - f. UW-Extension
 - g. Beaver Creek Reserve
12. Future Agenda items
13. Set date for next meeting
14. Adjourn

Prepared by: Holly Weigand

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters, remote access, or other auxiliary aids. Contact the clerk of the committee or Administration for assistance (715-839-5106). For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-6945, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023

AG RESOURCE CENTER, RM. 103 & 104

227 – 1ST STREET WEST, ALTOONA, WI 54720

Members Present: Robin Leary, Tami Schraufnagel, Heather DeLuka, Jodi Lepsch, Glory Adams, Missy Christopherson

Members Absent: Jim Stensen, Ricky Strauch

Staff Present: Chad Berge, Christina Rauh, Holly Weigand, Zach Mohr (LCD), Charles Ellefsen (Corp. Counsel)

Others Present: Lyssa Seefeldt, Jed Kaurich, Candy Anderson, Charlie Ayres, Liz Osborne

1) Call to order by Chair

Chair Leary called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2) Roll call

Roll call was taken. A quorum was present with 6 members in attendance.

3) Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Leary confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

4) Public Comment Period

No comments.

5) Review/Approval of April 10, 2023, meeting minutes

DISCUSSION: The April 10, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed.

ACTION: Motion by DeLuka to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

6) Review Vouchers and Ledger Update

DISCUSSION: The April 2023 expenditures and revenues were reviewed.

7) Approval of new and/or previously authorized Cost-Share agreements

DISCUSSION: No cost-share applications were previously authorized. The following cost-share applications were presented for approval:

- Lyle Schlomer – NMP/Soil Sampling - \$456.00 (NMFE)

ACTION: Motion by Adams to approve the Schlomer cost-share agreement as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

8) Review the Mathy/Ayres land donation recommendation as proposed by the Land Stewardship Subcommittee and make a recommendation on how to move forward with the land donation.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Lepsch, member of the Land Donation Special Committee, discussed the recommendation from the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. She reviewed the various management options the committee discussed, which were then broken down into minimalist, moderate and robust activities. Both the Land Donation Special Committee and Land Stewardship Subcommittee approved to have the Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department manage the property with the vision of implementing minimalist activities and with appropriate time and funding, moving towards moderate management activities. The committees discussed the need to conduct a Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) study, the cost of the study and the department that would be budgeting for the study in order to move the management of the property to moderate activities. Both committees agreed to refer the source of funding to the Parks and Forest Committee.

ACTION: Motion by Lepsch to recommend the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department manage the property with a goal of moderate uses, which also includes minimalist activities as outlined in the table. Moderate uses may be pursued, if feasible, based on an H&H study to be budgeted in 2024 and gaining access from the WI Department of Natural Resources. The following activities will be prohibited: hunting, buildings, motorized activities and camping, unless approved in the future. The LCC also recommends naming the property Red Flint Recreation Area and naming the lake, Fred Ayres Lake. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

- ▶ Minimalist
 - ▶ Leave property as is
 - ▶ Natural surface hiking and biking trails
 - ▶ Fishing and swimming
 - ▶ Trees and vegetation to be managed by agency as they see fit
- ▶ Moderate
 - ▶ Portable toilets
 - ▶ Pavilion – open air structure
 - ▶ Boardwalk trail
 - ▶ Beach
 - ▶ Habitat improvement – Pollinator, Aquatic, and Wildlife
 - ▶ Non-motorized boats

9) Consideration to dissolve the Land Donation Special Committee.

DISCUSSION: The committee agreed that the Land Donation Special Committee was only put in place to put forth a recommendation, and that the Special Committee has no further authority.

ACTION: Motion by Lepsch to approve dissolving the Land Donation Special Committee. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

10) 2023 Tree Sale Review.

DISCUSSION: Holly Weigand reviewed the tree sale expenses and revenue. Leary would like to see the generated revenue used to reimburse training opportunities for LCC Citizen Members.

11) LCC Conservation Tour.

DISCUSSION: The Committee suggested having a Conservation Tour in the Fall. More ideas for the conservation tour and a possible date will be brought back to the committee in July.

12) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates

Brief reviews and updates were provided.

a. Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition:

Next meeting is May 16, 2023.

b. Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program:

No new updates.

c. Land Stewardship Subcommittee:

Next meeting is May 24, 2023.

d. USDA-NRCS / FSA:

On June 22, 2023, from 4:00pm – 7:00pm they will be hosting a Bees, Trees, and Cheese event.

e. DNR-Forestry:

Jed Kaurich mentioned that their spring fire season is almost to an end. Their Tree & Shrub sale was April 20th and they sold 31,000 trees and shrubs. Wisconsin is part of the Trillion Trees Pledge, that has

a goal in Wisconsin that by the year 2030 to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland, plant 74 million trees in rural areas, and plant 1 million trees in urban areas.

Liz Osborne: Grants were due April 15th. The application pool is down with only 37 runoff grants applied for, for a total of \$3.8 million. Also doing a needs assessment for educational programs in the surrounding three counties: Eau Claire County, Chippewa County, and Dunn County.

f. UW-Extension:

Seefeldt provided a program update.

g. Beaver Creek Reserve

Breanne Klockzien new Lake Monitoring and Protection Network contact.

13) Future Agenda Items.

14) Set date for next meeting

The next LCC meeting was set for June 19, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

15) Adjourn

Leary adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad Berge, LCC Clerk

Land Conservation Division 2023 Bills and Deposits

The following bills were sent to the Finance Department for payment.

The following bills were sent to the Finance Department for payment.

May

Invoices

Vendor	Description	Account #	Amount
Lake Eau Claire Rehab&Protection	Sediment Removal & Aeration Costs	201-15-57730-829-000	\$ 41,372.07
Lake Altoona District	Sediment Trap Expenses	201-15-57730-829-000	\$ 115,846.25
Carl Sabelko	Tree Spade Deposit Refund	100-15-46810-000-701	\$ 45.00
Voyager	April Fuel	100-15-56920-330-000	\$ 301.88
ECC Highway	April Fuel	100-15-56920-330-000	\$ 107.13
In Situ Inc. (Pcard)	River Gauge	207-15-56924-390-716	\$ 20.98
Dragonfly Gardens (Pcard)	Tree Sale	100-15-56922-829-701	\$ 1,867.00
Batteries Plus (Pcard)	Wildlife Damage Supplies	100-15-56922-390-702	\$ 5.55
Batteries Plus (Pcard)	Wildlife Damage Supplies	100-15-56922-390-702	\$ 174.60
Holly Weigand	April/May Mileage Reimburseme	100-15-56920-330-000	\$ 134.30
Holly Weigand	Tree Sale Expenses Reimbursement	100-15-56922-829-701	\$ 29.37
Total			\$ 159,904.13

Deposits

The following deposits were taken to the Treasury Department to be processed.

Vendor	Description	Date	Account Number	Amount Deposited
Priory Farms, LLC	NTD-23-02	5/8/2023	207-15-46820-000-720	\$ 235.00
Jeff Hadorn	NTD-23-03	5/16/2023	207-15-46820-000-720	\$ 331.00
Hi-Crush Augusta LLC	SW-07-12 Extension	5/17/2023	100-15-46820-000-000	\$ 5,810.00
Kevin Wang	NTD-23-06	5/22/2023	207-15-46820-000-720	\$ 195.00
Larry Myhre	NTD-23-04	5/22/2023	207-15-46820-000-720	\$ 531.00
David Rotvold	NTD-23-05	5/25/2023	207-15-46820-000-720	\$ 123.00
Nate Peleschak	NTD-23-07	5/30/2023	207-15-46820-000-720	\$ 115.00
Matt Appel	EC-2023-14	5/31/2023	100-15-46820-000-000	\$ 290.00
Nuss Truck & Equipment	SW-23-05	5/31/2023	100-15-46820-000-000	\$ 1,666.01
Multiple	Tree Sales	5/8/2023	100-15-46810-000-701	\$ 1,674.00
Multiple	Native Sales	5/22/2023	100-15-46810-000-701	\$ 903.00
Total			\$ 11,873.01	



**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME: Alan Henning TELEPHONE: (715) 577-0909

ADDRESS: 8148 Mueller Road, Fall Creek, WI 54742

FARM LOCATION: 26N 8W 29 Town of Washington
TOWN RANGE SECTION TOWNSHIP

AGREEMENT PROVISIONS

1. COST SHARE DETAILS

PRACTICE: Nutrient Management-50.78 ACRES: 99 COST SHARE RATE: \$ 40.00 /ACRE

COST SHARE SOURCE: 2023 SEG Funds TOTAL COST SHARE AMOUNT: \$ 3,960.00

2. AS A COST SHARE RECIPIENT, I AGREE TO:

- A. Submit a copy of the certified Nutrient Management Plan and all materials, including current soil samples, by the end of the calendar year.
 - a. Soil samples can be no older than 4 years.
 - b. Soil samples must be taken at a minimum rate of 1 sample per 5 acres.
 - c. Implement and annually update the nutrient management plan once it has been approved by a Certified Nutrient Management Planner.
- B. Develop and implement a Conservation Plan that meets tolerable soil loss "T".
- C. Notify Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division staff immediately if I decide to withdraw from this agreement.

3. THE LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION AGREES TO:

- A. Reimburse the Applicant at the cost share rate (above) when:
 - a. The Land Conservation Commission has approved this Agreement;
 - b. A Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program Cost Share Contract has been signed by the Applicant and all Landowners (if applicable)
 - c. A Nutrient Management Plan has been submitted that meets NRCS Practice Standard 590 & Technical Note WI-1.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION
COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

I request cost sharing for the practice (s) listed on Page 1 of this agreement and agree to install and maintain the practice(s) in accordance with the "Agreement Provisions" listed:

Alan Henry
APPLICANT SIGNATURE

5-23-2023
DATE

LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVE	<input type="checkbox"/> DENY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBER		DATE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

I certify that the Nutrient Management Plan submitted meets NRCS Practice Standard 590 and Technical Note WI-1:

LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION TECHNICIAN

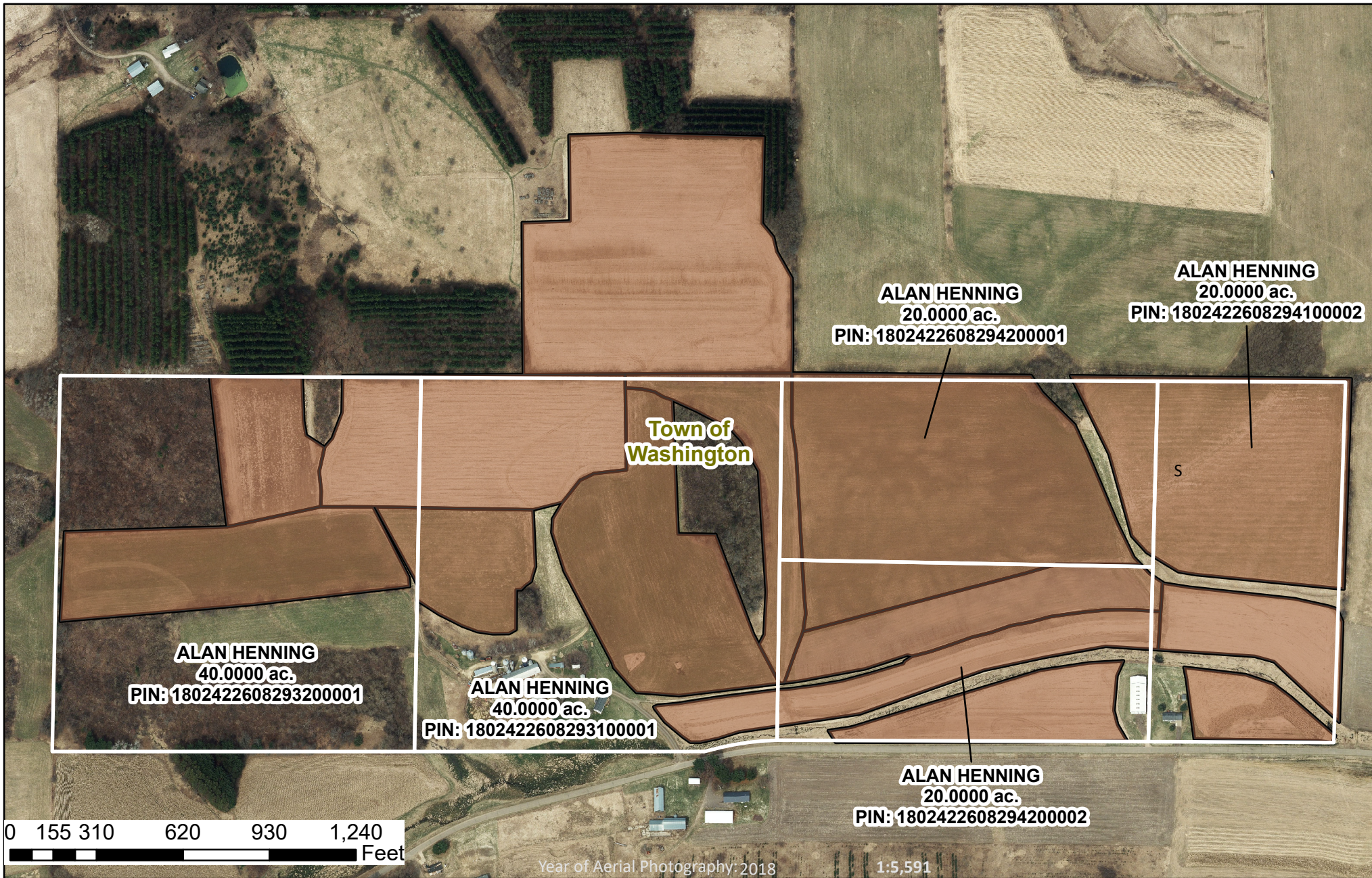
DATE

TOTAL ACRES		ACRES
COST SHARE RATE	\$	PER ACRE
TOTAL COST SHARE AMOUNT	\$	
COST SHARE SOURCE		

THE APPLICANT HAS MET ALL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE COST SHARE PAYMENT FROM EAU CLAIRE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT SHOWN ABOVE:

LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION MANAGER

DATE



Eau Claire County
 Land Conservation Division
 Planning & Development
 721 Oxford Ave
 Eau Claire, WI 54703
 Phone: (715) 839-6226
 Fax: (715) 831-5802
 www.co.eau-claire.wi.us

Alan Henning
 Address:
 8148 Mueller Road
 Fall Creek, WI 54742

Phone Number: (715) 577-0909

SEG Practice: Nutrient Management Planning 50.78



COST SHARE AGREEMENT

NAME _____
 TELEPHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 UNITS _____

PRACTICE _____

 PRACTICE _____

AGREEMENT PROVISIONS:

1.	TOTAL:	DATCP	COUNTY	GRANTEE
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ %	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ %	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ %
	<u>ESTIMATED COST:</u>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
	<u>ACTUAL COST:</u>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Any practice cost estimated to exceed \$25,000 requires bids. The Land Conservation Division (LCD) will obtain these.

2. AS A COST SHARE RECIPIENT, I AGREE TO:

- A. Install the practice(s) listed above by _____. If NOT installed by _____, I understand that cost share funds shall be withdrawn and reallocated to other projects, unless the parties in writing agree to an extension. A Nutrient Management Plan must be developed within one year of installation of other practices.
- B. Notify Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division (LCD) staff immediately if I decide to withdraw from this agreement.
- C. Operate and maintain the practice(s) for a period of ten (10) years from the time of installation.
- D. Repay the full amount of cost share funds to Eau Claire County, if:
 - 1) The practice(s) is rendered ineffective during its ten (10) year life span due to an action or neglect on my part.
 - 2) A change in ownership, land use, or management occurs –unless the new owner agrees in writing to assume operation and maintenance of the practice(s) for the rest of the agreement period or it can be demonstrated a change in land use or management affecting the installed practice(s) will not result in deterioration of soil and water resources.
- E. Hire a contractor for practice(s) estimated to cost less than \$25,000.
- F. Provide at least three (3) days notice to the LCD office that installation will occur.
- G. Install the practice according to the design, standards, and specifications provided by the LCD staff.
- H. Submit all receipts to the LCD office. Payment will be made after inspection and certification from LCD staff that the practice(s) was installed and completed according to the design.

3. THE LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION AGREES TO:

- A. Provide technical assistance for design, construction, and inspection for the practice (s).
- B. Obtain bids for practices estimated to cost \$25,000 or more.
- C. Pay the cost share rate when the receipts are received and the practices (s) is certified complete.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION
COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

I request cost sharing for the practice (s) listed on Page 1 of this agreement and agree to install and maintain the practice(s) in accordance with the "Agreement Provisions" listed:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____
MAILING ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

<p><u>LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION ACTION:</u></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED	<input type="checkbox"/> DENIED
<p>_____</p> <p>LCC MEMBER</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>DATE</p>	
<p>LCC APPROVAL REQUIRED IF UPDATED COSTS EXCEED _____ %</p>		

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Practice _____	Units Installed _____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The above practice(s) & units were installed according to the Standards & Specifications:

Technician's Signature Date

Remarks: _____



TOTAL PROJECT COSTS INCURRED: \$ _____

	DATCP	COUNTY	GRANTEE
COST SHARE RATE:	X _____ %	X _____ %	X _____ %
ELIGIBLE COST SHARE AMOUNT:	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

THE APPLICANT HAS MET ALL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE COST SHARE PAYMENT FROM EAU CLAIRE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT SHOWN ABOVE:

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE DATE

The outputs highlighted in red with a strike through are proposed for removal.

The Eau Claire County Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan outlines programming for the Land Conservation Division (LCD) to protect and conserve the County's natural resources, reduce nutrient and sediment inputs into our waters, maintain productive agricultural lands, and preserve special habitats on the landscape. The LCD activities encompass several sub-programs including; Erosion Control & Storm Water planning/permitting, Lake Rehabilitation, Groundwater Protection, Cost-Share to landowners, State Ag & Urban Non-Point Pollution Standards administration, Animal Waste Ordinance administration, Nutrient Management Planning, Farmland Preservation compliance, Wildlife Damage Program, Conservation Tree Sales, Land Stewardship, and other outreach activities. Many of these programs are mandated under the authority of Wisconsin Statute 92 as directed by the Land Conservation Commission.

OUTPUTS	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Number of landowner contacts	270	198	210	577
Number of acres planned for Nutrient Management	24,594	24,723	25,520	16,291
Number of acres planted with the No-Till Drill	---	622	1022	353
Number of acres controlled to allowable soil lost (T)	85,557	#	#	16,440
Number of animal waste storage facilities constructed	---	---	---	0
Number of un-used animal waste storage facilities properly closed	3	3	3	0
Number of Engineered Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed	4	14	6	37
Pounds of Phosphorus Reduction achieved	3,720	2,142	5,945	3,145
Tons of soil (sediment) Reduction achieved	---	452	1,624	2,857
Number of erosion control & stormwater permits issued	45	36	23	36
Number of acres enrolled in Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)	46,570	47,868	45,636	44,760
Number of acres enrolled in Agriculture Enterprise Area Program (AEA)	7,016	7,583	7,583	7,618
FPP tax credit dollars made available to landowners via LCD review	\$ 365,313	\$ 376,420	\$ 361,215	\$ 353,330
Number of trees sold	** 23,519	23,403	30,700	26,025
Number of wildlife damage complaints addressed	8	5	3	8

*YTD indicates Jan-Jun Results

OUTCOMES	Benchmark	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Percent of Eau Claire County Cropland in compliance with nutrient management performance standard.	additional 2 % annually	22.06%	22.17%	22.89%	12.82%
Percent of Eau Claire County Cropland in compliance with Tolerable Soil Loss (T)	additional 2 % annually ***	76.73%	#	#	#
At least 80% reduction in Total Suspended Solids (TSS) on construction sites as a result of Stormwater Permitting	at least 80% reduction	85.74%	83.26%	95.38%	87.69%
Targeted Watershed Inventories completed on at least 1,000 acres/year	1,000 acres	---	---	---	---
Additional Conservation grant funding opportunities sought	3	6	---	1	2
Provide public outreach or education presentations / workshops	5	26	21	17	24
Provide one-on-one conservation outreach or education contacts to Eau Claire County residents	200	274	245	248	355
Review/revise at least 50 conservation plans each year to evaluate whether or not farmers are in compliance with Title 17.04 Ag Performance Standards or have conservation needs	50	44	43	21	55

*YTD indicates Jan-Jun Results

Potential new outputs:

- Number of Certified Survey Maps reviewed
- Ordinance violations addressed

2022 Annual Report



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION



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WELCOME

Eau Claire County is a diverse landscape in West-central Wisconsin with river systems at its center. "Eau Claire" is the singular form of the original French name, "Eaux Claires", meaning "Clear Waters". With partially glaciated and partially Driftless Area terrain, the County holds a balance of urban and rural uses that lends itself well to a variety of cropping systems and development opportunities.

The Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division (LCD) of the Department of Planning and Development (P&D) has a strong enforcement role throughout the County but is also looked to for technical assistance and expert guidance in matters related to natural resource conservation and preservation. The main program and service areas within LCD can be compiled into three categories:

- Land Preservation
- Land Conservation Planning
- Water Quality Protection

Land Conservation Division Staff Members

Chad Berge	Land Conservation Manager
Holly Weigand	Administrative Specialist
Heidi Pederson	Administrative Specialist
Zachary Mohr	Conservation Technician
Christina Rauh	Environmental Engineer
Tim Wucherer	Conservation Technician-Agronomist

(Not pictured below is Greg Leonard, former Land Conservation Manager)

Land Conservation Commission Members

Robin Leary	Chair
Tami Schraufnagel	Vice Chair
Heather DeLuka	County Board Member
Missy Christopherson	County Board Member
Jodi Lepsch	County Board Member
Glory Adams	Citizen Representative
Ricky Strauch	Farmer Representative
Dean Solie	FSA Representative



From left to right: Heidi Pederson, Tim Wucherer, Holly Weigand, Chad Berge, Zachary Mohr, Christina Rauh

LAND PRESERVATION

The Land Preservation Program is designed to protect Eau Claire County's land and water resources, specifically for the purpose of reducing soil losses or preserving unique and valuable land resources. Habitat improvements for fish and wildlife as well as public recreational opportunities are also taken into consideration.

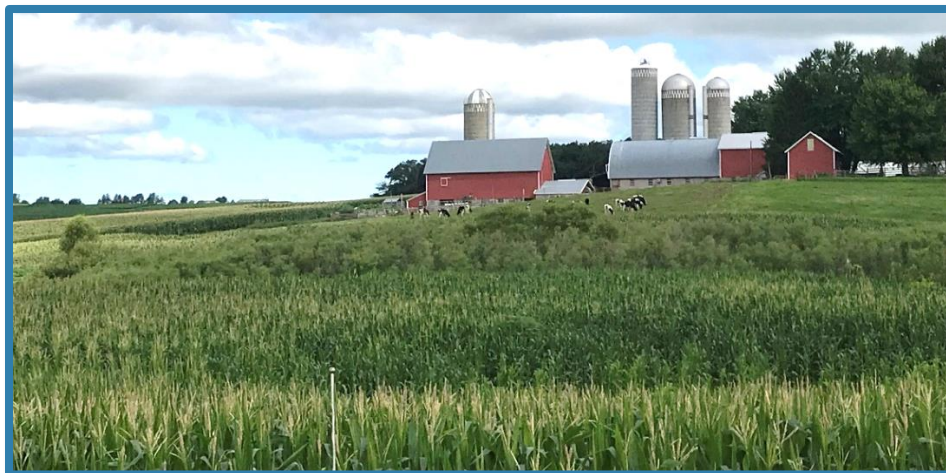
Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Landowners who participate in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) are eligible to claim an income tax credit if they meet soil and water conservation standards. FPP participants with land zoned AP-Agricultural Preservation receive an income tax credit of \$7.50 per acre. Landowners within the Golden Triangle Ag Enterprise Area who sign a 15-year Farmland Preservation Agreement are eligible to receive additional income tax credits.

LCD staff meet with FPP participants once every four years to conduct a status review and determine compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards & Prohibitions within Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 151. Most landowners are in full compliance with the performance standards, and the remaining are cooperatively working with staff to meet these standards. There are now a total of 238 participants and 44,760 acres enrolled in FPP in Eau Claire County. Since the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit inception in 1977, the program has returned nearly \$10 million in income tax credits to landowners in Eau Claire County.

Golden Triangle Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)

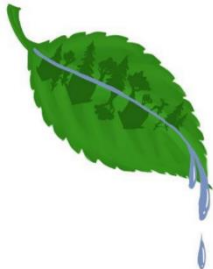
In 2016, Eau Claire County farmers designated the Golden Triangle Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA). Since then, staff have worked with landowners to sign voluntary 15-year Farmland Preservation Agreements in these areas. There are currently 7,618 acres in a Farmland Preservation Agreement, which represents over 30% of the total land located in the Golden Triangle AEA.



Land Stewardship Program

The Eau Claire County Land Stewardship Program is a framework for the protection and preservation of land tracts within Eau Claire County that meet the following priorities: significant ecological value; recreation and public access; strong community support; good value for county residents; sustains resource base; and quality of life.

In 2017 the Land Stewardship Subcommittee completed its *Stewardship Vision 2150* visioning document. The purpose of this document is to provide a longer-range view of County landscape and population trends to influence current policies aimed at preserving important landscape features. It addresses the “what to protect” and “methods to protect it” questions. To strengthen its partnerships, in 2020 the Subcommittee completed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Landmark Conservancy to further the efforts of both organizations.



Land Stewardship Subcommittee Members:

Rick Koziel	Chair, Citizen Member
Dave Carlson	Vice Chair, Citizen Member
Joe Knight	County Board Member/Parks & Forest Committee
Dave Dressel	Citizen Member
Tony Brooks	Citizen Member
Heather DeLuka	Land Conservation Commission Rep.
Larry Jolivette	Citizen Member

Tree and Shrub Program

Since the LCD tree sale program began in 1982, a total of 1,107,145 trees have been sold. In 2019, native forbs were added to the sale and continue to be popular with landowners, with 2,712 native forbs sold since then. The program is low-cost to the county; all costs associated with the program are covered by revenue generated by sales. Thank you to all landowners who participate in this program. Planting trees helps to conserve our soil and water resources in Eau Claire County.

Venison Donation Program

LCD coordinates a venison donation program during Wisconsin’s gun deer season in November. In 2022, Mike’s Star Market of Eau Claire processed 46 deer which resulted in 1,750 pounds of venison that was donated to local food pantries. Due to state Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing guidelines, 26 of the donated deer were also tested for CWD, with none of the deer testing positive for CWD.

Wildlife Damage Abatement Claims Program (WDACP)

The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) is a state program that provides damage prevention assistance and partial compensation to farmers when wild deer, elk, bear, geese, and turkeys damage their agricultural crops. Shooting permits may be issued to farmers for removal of nuisance wildlife to protect their crops. In 2022, LCD staff administered this program in Eau Claire County by responding to 6 requests for crop damage resulting from wildlife.

LAND CONSERVATION PLANNING

The Planning category is comprised of Land Conservation Division administration ensuring implementation of its comprehensive Land and Water Resource Management Plan. It includes other priority areas that address other soil and water conservation needs as identified by the Land Conservation Commission. This category also provides a framework for assessing and building on current mandated programs based on need.

Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan

Eau Claire County's Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) 10-year plan was up for renewal this year. The LCD staff worked to update the plan with current Land Conservation Division activities, as directed by the Land Conservation Commission, while also ensuring consistency with the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan and the Eau Claire County Board Strategic Plan. The plan sets the framework for the LCD's goals through 2032. The updated plan was reviewed and approved by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board in December of 2022. Future reporting will be tied to the annual work plan. The full plan can be accessed through the LCD website at: [Eau Claire County Land & Water Resource Management Plan](#)

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a joint effort between federal, state, and county governments to balance working agriculture and the protection of Wisconsin's soil and water resources. Participating landowners are paid to voluntarily install filter strips along waterways or to return portions of continually flooded fields to wetlands during a contracted period.

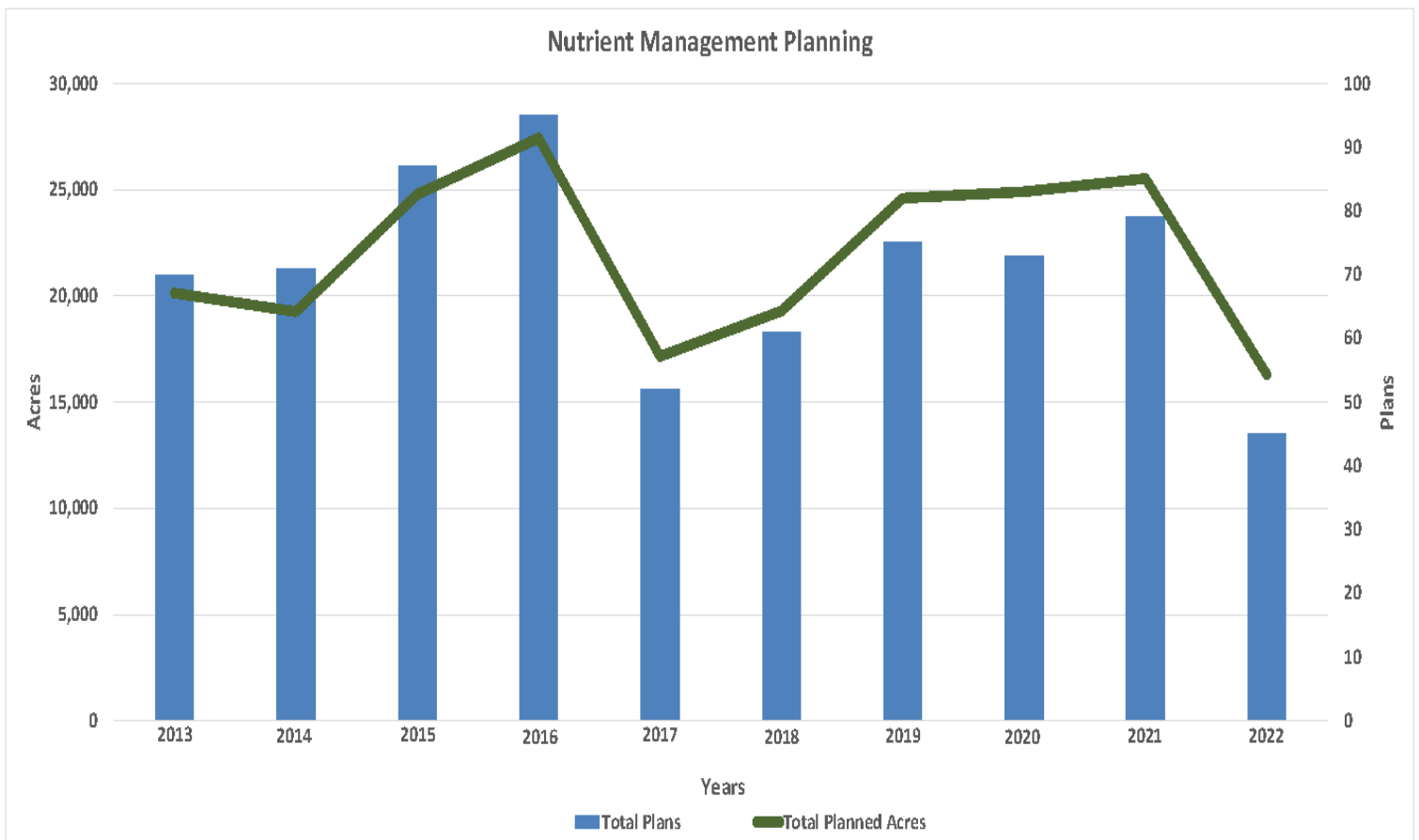
LCD has assisted with the implementation of CREP in Eau Claire County since February 19, 2002. In 2022, there was one CREP reenrollment within the County.



Nutrient Management Planning and Annual Update Workshops

With the help of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, LCD staff annually host eight workshops to teach farmers how to develop and update their own Nutrient Management Plans. These plans help producers to manage livestock manure, commercial fertilizer, and other nutrient sources to balance nutrient applications. This is critical to prevent soil and nutrients from running off into nearby streams and to prevent nutrient and bacteria leaching from manure into the groundwater.

These training workshops provide LCD staff an opportunity to discuss other conservation related topics with farmers, such as the State's Agricultural Performance Standards, or the need to properly close unused wells and manure storage structures. Farmers have the option to develop their Nutrient Management Plan with or without use of the SnapPlus computer program, and farmers without livestock are also invited to develop and update their Nutrient Management Plan. Thirty-seven farmers participated in the nutrient management workshops.



WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

The Water Quality Protection category is designed to protect the County's water resources by reducing the inputs of nutrients and sediments resulting from storm water runoff from construction sites and agricultural activities. Much of this category is mandated through the state agriculture and urban non-point pollution statutes and has been strongly supported by County residents in annual surveys completed as part of the Eau Claire County Budget process.



Eau Claire River Watershed – 9 Key Element Plan

In 2017, the 9-Key Element plan for the Eau Claire River watershed, *Healthy Soils & Healthy Waters: A Community Strategy for the Eau Claire River Watershed*, was approved by both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The 9-Key Element plan guides conservation efforts and provides new opportunities for grant funding sources to pursue in the watershed. Many partners were involved in this effort and continue to meet monthly to collaborate on implementation activities and explore additional opportunities in the watershed.

Large Scale Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant

With the approval of the 9-Key Element plan, Eau Claire County is eligible for grant dollars through the Department of Natural Resources' Targeted Runoff Management program (TRM). Eau Claire and Clark County Land Conservation staff partnered together to secure a multi-year Large Scale TRM grant in 2018. The grant provided dollars in Eau Claire County to install conservation practices in the Fall Creek Watershed that reduces soil erosion and nutrient loss to the Fall Creek Pond.

The funding for the TRM grant and Demonstration Farm expired on December 31, 2022, and the decision was made to not continue with either project. Below is a summary of the outcomes from the grant:

- 3-year Demonstration Farm – 41.8 acres
- Manure Storage Closure – 1 closure
- Waterway System – 3.5 acres
- Cover Crops – 162 acres
- \$83,741 in additional County Funding



Water Quality Trading

Eau Claire County signed a Water Quality Trading (WQT) agreement with the City of Augusta in 2019. The City's wastewater treatment plant cannot currently meet its permitted effluent limits for phosphorus, which is discharged into Bridge Creek. WQT allows the City to take credit for phosphorus reductions resulting from conservation practices installed elsewhere in the watershed.

LCD staff identified the Erdman and Hi Crush Augusta properties located on Diamond Valley Creek and determined that both properties were eligible for WQT. Soil tests showed that the proposed project would produce 211 pounds of phosphorus credits per year for the City of Augusta, creating enough credits to maintain compliance with their Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPEDS) permit. In 2021 staff worked with the property owners to sign WQT Agreements, applied for permits, and finished engineering the Best Management Practices.

Due to the presence of endangered Wood Turtles within the project vicinity, a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Incidental Take Permit (IT) was issued. The IT permit restricted the timing of the project and the practices that could be installed in 2021. In the fall of 2021, the upland BMPs were installed, along with 466 feet of streambank stabilization and 12 in-stream boulders. The remaining streambank stabilization and in-stream fish habitat were installed in May of 2022.

In 2022 the remaining practices were installed, wrapping up the project. The project resulted in reducing phosphorus pollution by 477 pounds per year, generating a phosphorus credit of 211 pounds per year. The LCD will conduct a yearly site inspection through June 2043 to verify the landowners are meeting the conditions of the agreement and that the installed BMPs are functioning as designed. The following is a summary of the installed BMPs:

- 1,311' streambank protection
- In-stream habitat
- Random Boulder Placement
- Rock Deflectors
- Bank Placed Boulders
- 2,710' Fence
- 1,161' Grassed Waterway
- 1,865' Subsurface Drain
- 160 square feet Heavy Use Area Protection Concrete
- 2 Stream Crossings
- Cattle Watering Ramp
- 1,120' Trails & Walkways
- 1 Watering Facility
- 1,120' Trails & Walkways
- 1 Watering Facility
- 60' Livestock Pipeline
- Seeding & Mulching

Lake Rehabilitation

LCD staff work with the local lake associations and lake districts to focus on lake rehabilitation projects. The Lake Eau Claire Association, in partnership with the Lake Eau Claire District and the Fall Creek Pond District are managing sediment through the mechanical dredging of sediment traps. Additionally, the Lake Altoona District is doing work to identify better sediment management strategies for the lake. Thank you to the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors for their support of local lakes and for funding efforts through the County Lake Rehabilitation Program.



No-Till Drill Rental Program

LCD gratefully accepted donations and grant funds which allowed for the purchase of the County's No-Till Drill in 2020. This piece of planting equipment is available for farmers to rent in the County. No-till planting provides countless benefits to our landscape by improving the health of the soil. This results in reduced levels of soil loss, reductions in nutrient runoff, and increased profitability to the farmer.



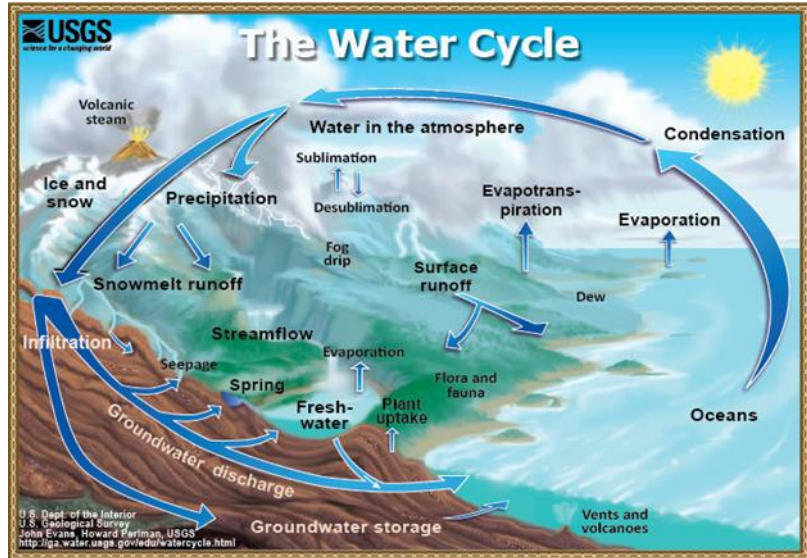
A total of 28 renters used the drill to plant over 605 acres of cover crops in Eau Claire County. Fees collected by farmers to rent the drill will be used to cover anticipated equipment maintenance and program expenses in the future.

In its first 3 years of existence, the No-Till Drill Rental program has helped Eau Claire County farmers prevent nearly 3.3 million pounds of sediment from being deposited into our streams, rivers, and lakes. The associated phosphorous reductions have prevented over 840,000 pounds of algae growth!

Groundwater Advisory Committee

LCD and Eau Claire City-County Health Department staff work closely with the Groundwater Advisory Committee to:

1. Monitor state and federal regulation of groundwater,
2. Oversee the development and implementation of a county-wide groundwater management plan, and
3. Perform other tasks as directed by the Planning & Development Committee.



The *State of the Groundwater in Eau Claire County Report* was completed in 2018 and contains priority recommendations related to groundwater quantity, groundwater quality, and education goals. The Groundwater Advisory Committee is working towards meeting the goals outlined in the report.

Additionally, Eau Claire County continues to offer cost-share funds to help landowners properly abandon unused wells. In 2022, this program provided \$2,489.43 to close five wells in Eau Claire County. Closing unused wells seals the connection between the land surface and the aquifer which water is pulled from, eliminating the possibility of contaminating the groundwater.



Groundwater Advisory Committee Members:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nancy Coffey | Chair/County Board member |
| Jim Dunning | Vice Chair/County Board member |
| Jodi Lepsch | County Board member |
| Mary Kenosian | Citizen member |
| Glory Adams | Citizen member |
| Anna Mares | DNR representative/citizen member |
| Mark Kaeding | Board of Health member |
| Dr. Sarah Vitale | Citizen member |
| Sham Anderson | Town's Association member |

Tri-County Groundwater Level Monitoring Pilot Study

Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties partnered in 2015 to form the Tri-County Groundwater Level Monitoring Pilot Study. The goal of the study is to install a network of groundwater elevation detection devices in the three-county area to gather new data on groundwater levels and fluctuations. Six WellIntel monitoring devices were deployed in Eau Claire County in 2016 and have been collecting groundwater data since. LCD staff continue to maintain the WellIntel devices deployed in the County.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

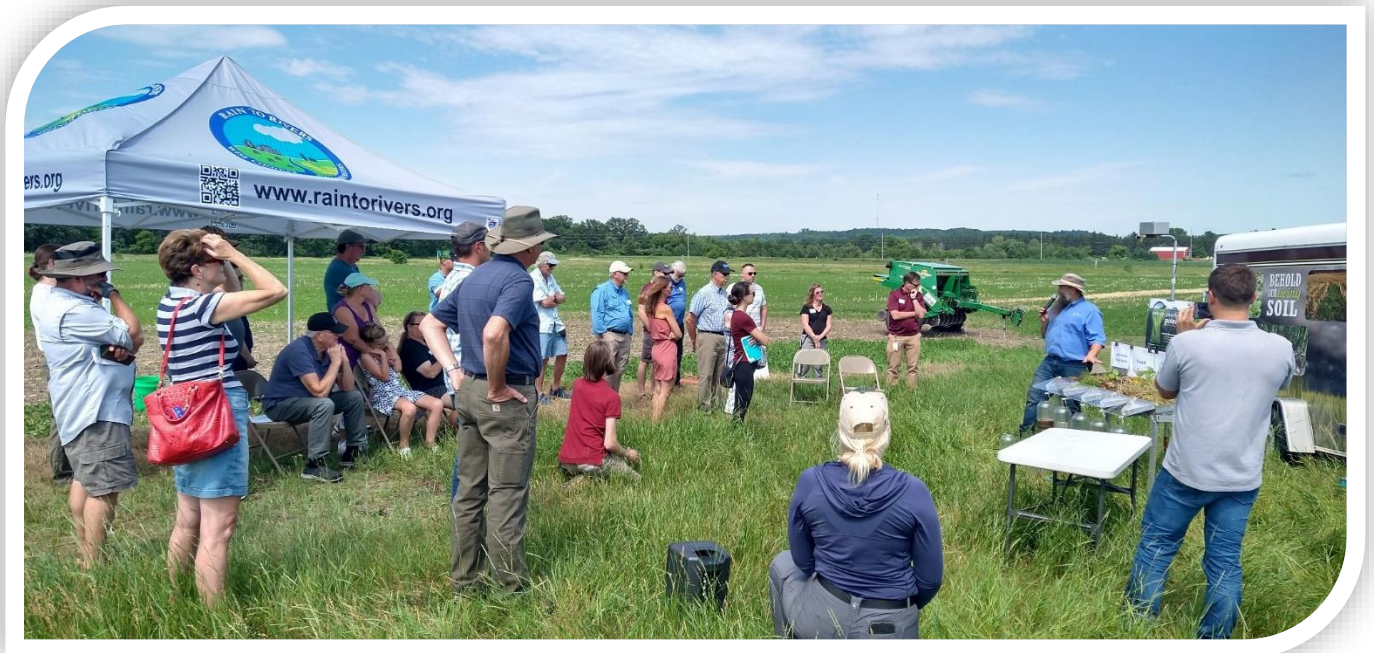
The Eau Claire County population is greater than 10,000 individuals which requires the County to comply with NR 216 and implementing a DNR Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. The MS4 permit requires municipalities to reduce polluted stormwater runoff by implementing stormwater management programs with best management practices. The programs are accomplished by LCD and Highway Department staff in various ways.

- Rain to Rivers of Western Wisconsin is a stormwater education non-profit that Eau Claire County partners with to provide public involvement, education, and outreach activities.
- LCD staff work with Highway Department staff to prevent illicit discharges to storm sewer systems and to implement pollution prevention practices at municipally owned transportation, maintenance areas and yards. In addition, Eau Claire County worked with local governments to finalize intergovernmental agreements that further detail the process for implementation of stormwater and erosion control management within their jurisdiction and for their municipal projects.
- LCD staff administer Erosion Control (17.05) & Stormwater Management (17.06) Ordinances to manage construction and post-construction site discharges. In 2022, the LCD reviewed and approved 30 erosion control permits and 9 stormwater permits.
- LCD staff provide erosion control technical assistance to Land Use and Building Inspection staff for construction of one- & two-family residences within the county.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- Nutrient Management Workshops provide farmer education on nutrient management and conservation topics to the rural community. LCD staff, in partnership with UW-Extension and Department of Agriculture, hosted 8 workshops in 2022.
- Staff performed monthly on-air conservation updates on WAXX Radio with Bob Bosold and Jill Welke to provide relevant press releases throughout the year.
- LCD staff, in partnership with the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition, hosted a Bus Tour for locally elected officials. The tour highlighted conservation practices throughout the county, with visits to the Demonstration Farm to discuss cover crops and the no-till drill; a local farmer's no-till fields; and Lake Altoona to discuss the sedimentation problems in the County's waterways and impoundments.



CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following 2022 Conservation Award Winners!

2022 Conservation Farmer: Gordon & Joyce Waller



Gordon & Joyce purchased an 80-acre farm back in 1995. They do not farm the land, but they do rent it to a local farmer who has been operating the land for the past 27 years. Gordon has also been working on conservation practices such as contour strips, maintaining grassed waterways, installing grass filter strips along Bear's Grass Creek, and protecting head lanes with field borders. He is also known in the community as a bee farmer, taking care of 200-300 hives a year. Over the years he has been teaching his grandson the art of raising and caring for bees as well.

2022 Water Quality Leadership: Michele Skinner

Michele began her role with the Lake District in July 2021. In her short time as chair she has reinvigorated the Lake Altoona community, took lead in directing the clean out of the sediment trap, solidified funding and permitting to clean the plugged south shore channel, collaborated with the Health Department and Parks & Forest to develop solutions to reduce algae issues, assisted with the application of a DNR grant for additional surveying equipment, collaborated with Lake Eau Claire for an ARPA grant, and collaborated with the LCD to host a "Think Tank" meeting that opened new partnerships with the WI DNR and USACOE.



2022 Special Recognition: Greg Leonard



Greg's conservation career began in 1979 when he graduated from UW Steven's Point in Wildlife Conservation & Wildlife Biology with a minor in Resource Management. Greg has worked for Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota DNR assisting with Pheasant Stamp funding, DNR in Vernon County, Trempealeau County, Dunn County Land Conservation, and Eau Claire County. Greg started at Eau Claire County back in 2011 and just recently retired this year, where he was the Land Conservation Manager for the past 5 years.

2022 Special Recognition: Wildlands School Founders

Wildlands School was prompted by experiences teaching students in a format where everyone worked together as a research team on actual issues affecting our local environment. For a decade, the Augusta School courses and summer science program focused on environmental science research, including research projects on streams, lakes, forests, and grasslands, and developed partnerships with the Wisconsin DNR, Eau Claire County Conservation Department, and many local and regional outdoor groups. The founding teachers were Paul Tweed, Jeff Hadorn, and Liz Seubert who took what they knew was possible and made it reality. Wildland School came from people who care about students and believe that in order to help young people be stewards of our natural world, they have to learn to love it firsthand, be treated like people, be out in the real natural world, experience it, get wet, get cold, get tired, and work together as a team.



The Dollars and Cents

2022 Conservation Funding Sources	Dollar Amount
DATCP Land & Water Resource Management Grant (BOND)	\$11,250.00
DATCP Nutrient Management Grant (SEG)	\$00,000.00
County Cost Share	\$2,365.00
Landowner Funds	\$11,565.00
DNR Large Scale Targeted Resource Management (TRM)	\$14,110.05
DATCP Local Assistance Grant	\$171,295.00
MDV and Other Grant Fund Sources with Partners	\$9,403.17
Farmland Preservation Tax Credits to local farmers	\$353,293.00

For every \$1 of local tax levy, Land Conservation Division programs directly return nearly \$4 to the Eau Claire County economy.

Conservation Projects Installed	Quantity
Stream Crossing	1
Well abandonments	4
Acres of nutrient management planning	16,291

**THANK YOU to our many partners.
Without your help, we could not do
the work that we do!**

