



WASHINGTON COUNTY

LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN *(2ND REVISION 2011-2020)*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JUNE 2010

Mission Statement: To Increase Awareness and Promote Action to Protect the Land & Water Resources of Washington County

PREPARED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2nd Revision to the Washington County Land and Water Resource Management Plan involved a diverse group of individuals with a wide range of backgrounds and expertise. Their input and involvement was crucial and will continue to be integral in addressing the issues and achieving the goals set forth in this document. Thank you to everyone, past and present contributors who were involved in this process.

Washington County Citizen Advisory Committee

Table with 2 columns: Name and Affiliation. Rows include Joseph Gonnering, Ross Bishop, George Muth, Brian Russart, William Ripp, Shawn Graff, Roger Walsh, Karl Glunz, and Kevin Dittmar.

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PLAN BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Conservation professionals throughout Wisconsin proposed the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan concept in 1996. This idea originated partly in response to the State Legislative call to “redesign” the Nonpoint Pollution Abatement Program. More importantly, it evolved from the long-standing need to establish and implement locally led conservation programs. The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) promoted the concept during State legislative deliberations in 1997, and soon gained the support of the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

In fall of 1997, the Legislature amended Chapter 92.10 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* to give counties the authority to develop their own LWRM plans, which would serve as the foundation for future conservation efforts. These plans serve as a multi-year work plan which will:

- Identify local resources, concerns and priorities
- Integrate existing resource management programs, plans and funding sources
- Establish partnerships between agencies, municipalities and other organizations
- Incorporate an information and education strategy for each plan objective
- Identify a method to evaluate and monitor progress

As referenced throughout this plan, there are numerous local and regional plans which currently exist that focus on natural resources. This document attempts to incorporate many elements of those plans.

Washington County’s first LWRM plan was approved in 2000 and revised in 2005. To meet current eligibility requirements for state conservation staff funding, work plans must be updated at least every five years, allowing an extension of the LWRM plan for an additional 5 years. This is the second revision of the original plan.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been effectively implemented throughout Washington County by the Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD) staff over the past 25 years. Installation of these practices continues to be primarily funded through federal and state programs as well as through the County Stewardship Incentive Program supported through our annual Native Tree Sale Program. Soil and Water Conservation Practice achievements for the period 1985 – 2009 were included in this revision.

PLAN REVISION

In January of 2010, the LWCD and the Planning Division (PD) began revising the LWRM Plan. The planning process involved cooperating agencies including other Divisions of the Washington County Planning and Parks Department (PPD), University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX), WDNR, NRCS and DATCP. Participation from the public in the development of the plan is an integral part of the planning process.

The 2010 revision process included four Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings which occurred on the following dates: February 16, March 16, April 7, and April 21, 2010. Participants included farmers, rural and city residents, a developer, and officials from local governments. Three of the nine CAC members had participated with previous LWRM plan development processes, which allowed continuity between plan revisions. The CAC committee members reviewed the accomplishments of the last LWRM plan, and recommended amendments/revisions to the work plan along with adding recommendations for work plan action items, ranking issues, goals and objectives. To ensure that regional and state resource issues and concerns were included in the County LWRM Plan, representatives from the NRCS, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), UWEX, WDNR, and DATCP participated as members of the work group. As a result, the committee was able to identify many commonalities between the county, regional, state and national priority issues, allowing for improved integration and coordination of efforts.

A public hearing regarding the revised draft Land & Water Resource Management Plan was held on June 29, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. at the Washington County Fair Park, 3000 County Highway PV, West Bend, Wisconsin.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Land Conservation Committee and the Citizen's Advisory Committee adopted a comprehensive approach for local citizens and officials to identify issues, goals and objectives related to the conservation of County natural resources. This process led to the identification of eight priority issues: Development, Fertilizer and Pesticides, Stormwater, Animal Waste, Groundwater, Soil Sustainability and Sedimentation, Nonmetallic Mining and Waste Management.

DEVELOPMENT

Goal

- Improve and implement planning strategies that protect and preserve land and water resources.

Objectives

- Preserve and restore stream corridor, lake shoreland, wetland and floodplain areas.
- Protect and maintain woodlands, environmental corridors, exceptional water resources, and unique geological areas resulting in the protection of threatened and endangered species.
- Encourage development that can be served by established urban infrastructure and services.
- Increase the use of conservation-minded development practices.
- Promote uniform adoption of wetland regulations.
- Preserve sufficient farmland to support a viable agricultural community, future food production needs and environmentally safe application of human and animal wastes.
- Reduce overland water flow and increase infiltration from developed land.
- Promote identification, control and management of invasive plant and animal species.
- Continue to encourage intergovernmental cooperation with urban, rural and county representatives.

FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES

Goal

- Improve and protect surface and groundwater through the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Objectives

- Assist farmers and private consultants with the development and implementation of nutrient management plans on cropland and sod farms.
- Increase awareness of the proper use of fertilizer, pesticide and de-icers and promote natural landscaping (non-agricultural).
- Monitor quantities and locations of sludge and septic applications.

STORMWATER

Goal

- Reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff from developed and developing areas.

Objectives

- Expand the adoption and implementation of the county's erosion control and stormwater management ordinance or equivalent for new developments.
- Ensure the long-term function and maintenance of stormwater facilities.
- Encourage the use of regional stormwater practices (RSP's).
- Assist local governments with the adoption of the developed urban areas performance standards.

ANIMAL WASTE

Goal

- Reduce the human and environmental risks posed by animal waste.

Objectives

- Continue application of the County's Manure Storage Ordinance (Chapter 16).
- Ensure that all livestock operations have no: overflowing manure storage facilities, unconfined manure stacks within Water Quality Management Areas, direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure to water resource, and/or animals in streams where degradation of the streambank has or will likely occur.
- Assist with the planning and development of livestock expansions.

GROUNDWATER

Goal

- Protect and improve the quality and quantity of groundwater.

Objectives

- Ensure a safe drinking water supply.
- Protect and preserve groundwater recharge areas, springs and other discharge points that feed cold water streams.

- Promote adequate maintenance of private sewerage treatment systems.
- Identify practices and educate homeowners on conservation measures they can use to decrease water consumption within households.

SOIL SUSTAINABILITY AND SEDIMENTATION

Goal

- Protect and enhance the productivity and sustainability of all cropland and reduce sediment delivery into streams, lakes and wetlands.

Objectives

- Achieve an erosion rate at or below "T"¹ for cropland fields.
- Develop a targeted buffer program to effectively augment existing programs. Work with local organizations and the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.
- Establish and maintain permanent vegetation in concentrated flow channels or other areas where runoff would otherwise cause erosion or sediment delivery to surface waters.
- Promote agricultural BMPs that improve soil health.

NON-METALLIC MINING

Goal

- Assure reclamation of mines when operations are terminated.

Objective

- Monitor sites for compliance.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Goal

- Reduce the human and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste.

Objectives

- Provide convenient and cost effective methods for county residents to dispose of unused hazardous waste, thereby protecting county natural resources.
- Increase awareness on the hazards of dioxins and other toxins/carcinogens emitted by open burning.

¹ "T-value" means the maximum average annual rate of soil erosion for each soil type that will permit a high level of crop productivity to be sustained economically and indefinitely.

IMPLEMENTATION

Citizen Advisory Committee members and the Land Conservation Committee established the following guiding principles for plan development and implementation:

- Recognize and account for the potential impacts of mandating conservation practices where substantial costs and management changes are required.
- Emphasize the positive economic and ecological benefits of natural resource management.
- Provide clear, concise and coordinated procedures to comply with state and local regulations.
- Coordinate the LWRM Plan activities with those of other state and local resource management efforts.
- Enhance collaboration between governmental units.
- Prioritize natural resource management efforts based upon the quality, sensitivity and level of impairment.
- Conduct informational and educational programming for all plan objectives.

Where applicable, these principles have been used in the development of the LWRM plan and serve as guidance for plan implementation.

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

Adequate funding will be essential to successfully implement the County's Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan. It is suggested that current staffing and administrative funding are not adequate to fulfill the objectives outlined in this plan. Currently, there are 6 full-time employees working in the Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD).

The projected staff costs (not including support and office costs) for implementing this plan over the next five years is outlined below in Table 27. As the estimates indicate, it is anticipated that the level of state support for local administration of land and water resource management activities will hold steady over the next five-years. Consequently, the County will need to pursue one of three possible courses of action. The first option would be for the County to gradually increase its portion of costs to maintain a staffing level of 7 employees. The second option is to scale back the implementation of the LWRM Plan to a level that is suited to the number of staff currently supported by county plus anticipated state funds. The third option is a combination of the first two options whereby the County would make increased commitment to local staff support along with scaling back implementation. The table below shows the estimated costs given the third option.

STAFF COSTS BY SOURCE: 2010-2015^a

Funding Source	2010		2011		2012 ^c		2013		2014		2015	
	COST	FTE ^b	COST	FTE	COST	FTE	COST	FTE	COST	FTE	COST	FTE
County	\$336,208	4.7	\$391,768	4.7	\$490,512	5.8	\$525,593	5.8	\$558,989	5.9	\$594,247	5.9
State	\$129,000	1.3	\$100,000	1.3	\$100,000	1.2	\$100,000	1.2	\$100,000	1.1	\$100,000	1.1
Total	\$465,208	6.0	\$491,768	6.0	\$590,512	7.0	\$625,593	7.0	\$658,989	7.0	\$694,247	7.0
5-YEAR TOTAL (2011-2015)												
County:	\$2,561,109											
State	\$500,000											

^a Figures include 5% annual cost increases for salary and benefits; based on historic trends over the last 5 years.

^b Full Time Equivalent

^c Projected increase due to need for additional staff

Source: Washington County

PRIORITY WORK AREAS

Limited funding and program availability require that certain activities be implemented in a systematic manner where resources can be directed to areas most in need. Rural nonpoint pollution control projects that involve costly projects (barnyard runoff control systems, manure storage facilities, transfer systems, etc.) or require significant management changes (conservation tillage, no-till, etc.) will be prioritized and completed within the county.

The Washington County priority farms strategy will target implementation of the performance standards and provide cost-sharing and technical assistance in areas of greatest environmental need or threat to public health. Priority farms will be identified through the following means:

- 1) Reports of environmental incidents, including well-contamination and/or fish kills.
- 2) Public complaints.
- 3) Volunteer landowners that identify soil and water conservation issues on their farms and request LWCD assistance.

LWCD staff will use the above criteria to prioritize farms for LWCD assistance and limited cost-sharing. In the event that the number of priority farms exceeds the assistance available, the highest priority farms will be those that have caused documented environmental incidents or are in sensitive environmental areas, such as those with shallow depth to groundwater, water quality management areas, or areas draining to 303(d) streams². Even when cost-sharing and technical assistance limits

² Wisconsin Legislature Wisconsin State Statutes "303 (d) listed waters" means the list of impaired waters in the state developed by the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to 33 USC 1313 and 40 CFR s. 130.7. High priority water quality areas, such as Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters, waters on the federal list of impaired waterbodies, and source water protection areas.

the number of priority farms that can be served each year, the information and education program will target all identified priority farms. Farms may be re-prioritized at the discretion of the LWCD staff and the LCC.

PROGRESS EVALUATION

The Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) will evaluate achievement of goals and objectives outlined in this plan by 1) Administrative reviews; 2) Quantifying resource protection; and 3) Monitoring water resources. Results from each of three components will be included in annual reports to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).