AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

**Goal:** Preserve a sufficient amount of agricultural land to ensure farming remains viable in Washington County.

**Goal:** Identify productive farmlands in Washington County and support their protection and management as an important economic resource.

- **Program:** Update the County Farmland Preservation Plan to reflect the recommendations of the comprehensive plan, including the LESA analysis, and any changes to the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program approved by the State Legislature in response to the Working Lands Initiative report. Encourage local governments to participate in developing and implementing the updated County Farmland Preservation Plan.

- **Program:** Work with area land trusts, such as the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (OWLT), to protect agricultural parcels through agricultural conservation easements and/or purchases.

- **Program:** Work with appropriate organizations to develop programs that support Wisconsin’s Working Lands Initiative recommendations.

- **Program:** Continue to provide technical assistance to towns on request for town farmland protection programs, such as transfer of development rights and exclusive agricultural zoning.

**Goal:** Protect farms and farming in Washington County.

- **Program:** Implement programs recommended under the Farmland Protection Issue to preserve agricultural activity in Washington County, including support of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative recommendations.

LAND USE ELEMENT

**Goal:** Preserve and enhance agricultural lands that are best suited for agricultural use.

- **Program:** Update the County Farmland Preservation Plan to reflect the recommendations of the comprehensive plan. Consider the results of the LESA analysis and any changes to the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program approved by the State Legislature in response to the Working Lands Initiative report as part of the plan update. Encourage local governments to participate in developing and implementing the updated County Farmland Preservation Plan.

- **Program:** Continue to work with local governments and appropriate organizations, including but not limited to land trusts, to develop programs to support farmland protection.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

**Goal:** Create, attract, and retain desirable businesses and industries.

- **Program:** Support EDWC programs that develop a strategy to support agri-business within the County.

- **Program:** Identify sustainable lands to be retained in long-term agricultural use in consultation with local governments, and using the results of the LESA analysis.

- **Program:** Work with appropriate entities to study the use of State and Federal bio-energy grants to promote agriculture and associated agricultural industries.

- **Program:** Encourage the EDWC Agribusiness Committee to develop a method to market and link Washington County agricultural products, including organic products, to restaurants and grocery stores in Washington County and surrounding areas.

- **Program:** Work with UW-Extension and local high schools and colleges to promote agribusiness education programs, and encourage young and beginning farmers to attend classes. Provide tuition assistance to farmers attending classes.

- **Program:** Study the feasibility of providing County tax credits for agricultural parcels and agribusinesses.