

DATCP and the Land Conservation Committees

Summer 2008



We have a partnership

- Created by Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes
- Critical for conservation of soil and water resources in the state



Who is DATCP?

- Sets and implements statewide soil and water conservation policy
- Administers the state's soil and water conservation programs
- Coordinates with other state programs, including DNR's nonpoint source water pollution abatement program



DATCP Programs

- Soil and water resource management grants program (SWRM)
- Land and water resource management program (LWRM)
- Farmland preservation program (FPP)
- Conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP)



Who are LCCs?

- Created by Chapter 92 of the Statutes
- Critical for:
 - identifying local resource conservation needs
 - developing conservation programs to address these needs
 - carrying out conservation programs to meet established standards



LCC Responsibilities and Roles

- Develop and implement land and water resource management plan
- Develop and implement local conservation programs
- Administer the Farmland Preservation Program
- Allocate cost-share funds
- Propose ordinances



How do LCCs carry out these responsibilities?

- Hire land conservation department staff
- Funding from and partnership with DATCP
- Partnership with and funding from other agencies (DNR, USDA-NRCS, USDA-FSA, local groups)



Soil and Water Resource Management Grants Program (SWRM)





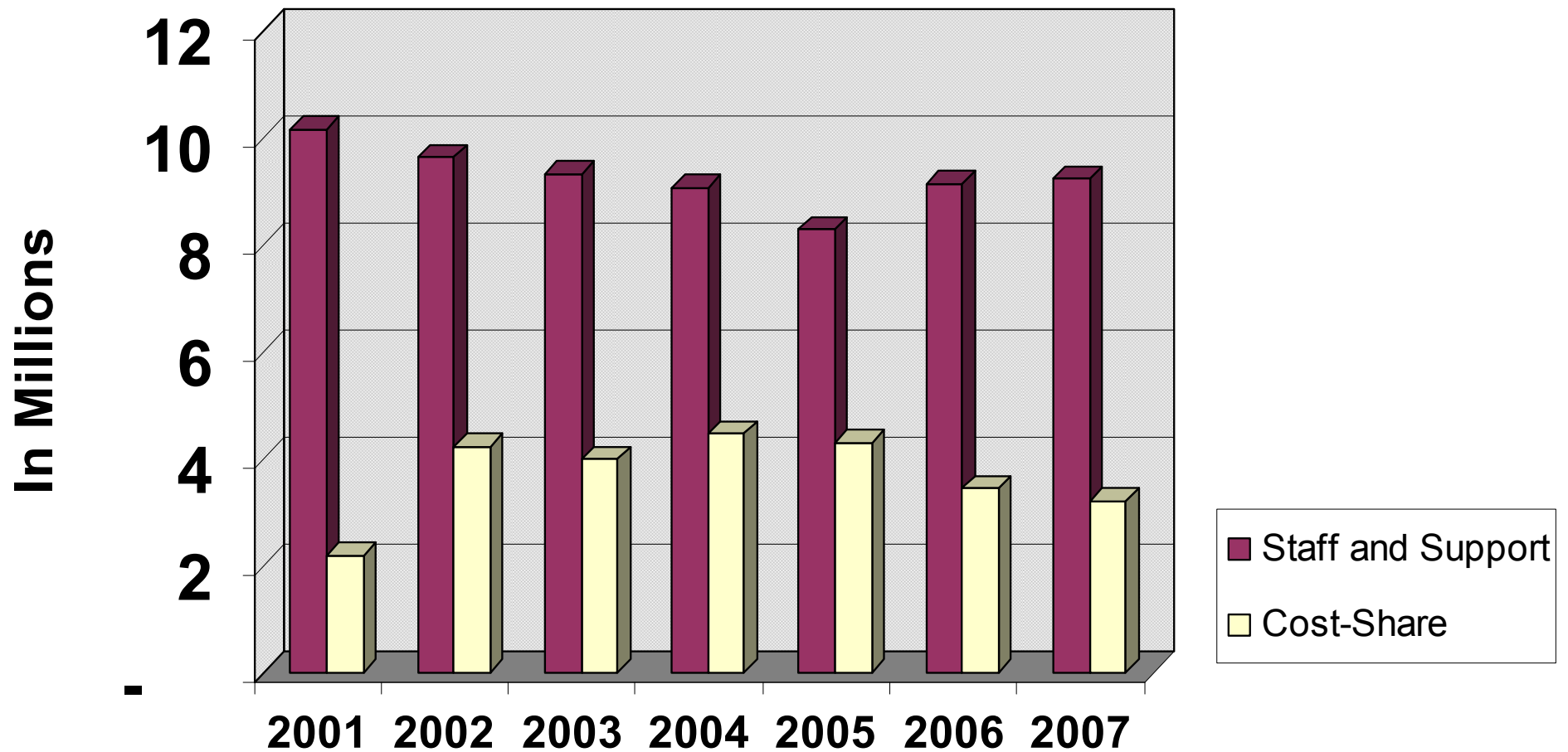
DATCP Funding

- SWRM grants provide for:
 - County staff and support costs (LCDs)
 - Cost-sharing for landowners

Counties must meet maintenance of effort requirements.



Funding for Counties (2001-2007)





2007 – 2009 State Budget

- Received authority to request \$7 million in bond authority for cost-sharing of “hard practices” for the 2007 – 2009 budget years
- \$6 million in additional cost-share funding to assist with nutrient management planning and manure management



Land and Water Resource Management Program (LWRM)





Land and Water Resource Management Program

- Ensures eligibility for grant funding
- Identifies local conservation priorities
- Incorporate a strategy to meet state performance standards
- Requires cooperative effort with other agencies and partners



County Role

- LCC is required to prepare the Land and Water Resource Management Plan
- Submit an annual report on activities related to implementation of the land and water resource management plan

LCC relies on land conservation staff to assist with plan requirements and reporting.



DATCP Role

- Develop annual report to show progress of conservation efforts across the state

For 2007, top three issues addressed by LCCs and LCDs

- Control of soil erosion
- Management of nutrients and manure
- Management of shoreland areas



Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)





Farmland Preservation Program

- Preserves farmland through planning
 - Exclusive agricultural zoning
 - Preservation agreements
- Provides tax credit to farmers
 - Must meet conservation standards



County Role

- Develop an agricultural preservation plan
- Get plan certified by the Land and Water Conservation Board
- Adopt conservation standards
- Receive and approve applications for agreements
- Monitor compliance with standards

LCC relies on land conservation staff to assist with FPP requirements.



DATCP Role

- Review agricultural preservation plans for FPP
- Review conservation standards
- Assist in presenting plans and standards to the LWCB for approval and certification



Working Lands Initiative

- Revising and strengthening the Farmland Preservation Program
- Creation of agricultural enterprise areas
- Development of a state program to purchase agricultural conservation easements

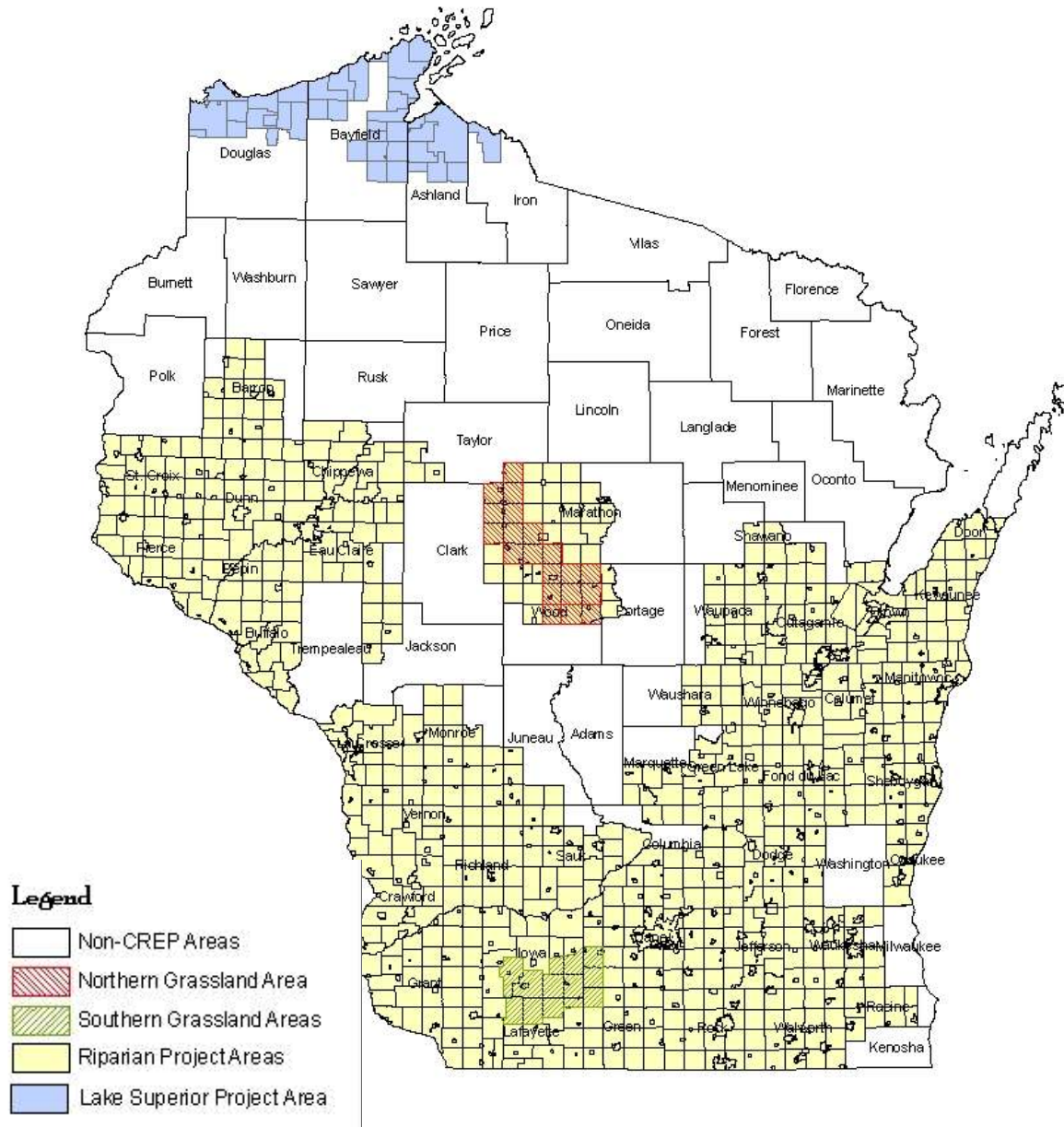
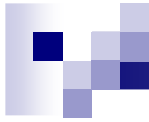
Website: <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/index.jsp>

E-mail: DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)





CREP in WI

- 41,500 acres enrolled
- 11,000 acres of grassland enrolled
- 27,000 acres of riparian buffers enrolled
- Nearly 3,000 acres of wetland restored



County and DATCP Roles

- County Role

- Sign up landowners in program

LCC relies on land conservation staff.

- DATCP Role

- Provide funding for incentive payments
- Provide cost-share dollars
- Hold conservation easements
- Track progress statewide



Other DATCP Assistance

- Nutrient management planning assistance
 - Conduct training and approve training courses
 - Provide information on the nutrient management planning standard
- Ordinance review
 - Review local ordinances for consistency with state standards and compliance with cost-share requirements
 - Provide guidance for ordinance development



Other DATCP Assistance

- Engineering and Technical Assistance
 - Provide engineering design assistance to LCDs and others
 - Provide certification and training
 - Provide construction oversight
 - Development of technical standards and design tools



Conclusion

- LCCs play a critical role in conservation in Wisconsin
- Need to continue to work together to maximize efforts to meet local and state conservation goals



Questions?

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