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## *Welcome to the field of soil and water conservation.*

Under Wisconsin's system of county government, some of you find yourselves on the Land Conservation Committee by choice, others by chance. Whatever the case may be, we assure you that the Land Conservation Committee is a very important function of government.

As an LCC member, you are a key player in the natural resource protection arena. You provide vital input into the task of identifying resource needs and developing programs to address those needs. With your help, Wisconsin will continue to be recognized as a leader in protecting its environment.

It is also important for a Land Conservation Committee member to be knowledgeable about the work and workings of the Land Conservation Department. This knowledge can be put to good use both in your committee and in your contacts with the public.

With that in mind, this handbook has been developed to assist you in understanding your leadership role as an LCC supervisor. We trust that you will find it useful in the challenge that lies ahead.

Best wishes for a successful and satisfying term,

*The Wisconsin Land and Water  
Conservation Association*



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## **Preface**

This handbook was designed as a basic orientation tool for new Land Conservation Committee (LCC) members and as a guide and reference for all LCC members. It was not intended to be a complete manual on the LCC but rather an introduction and source of information.

The handbook starts by describing the structure of conservation at the county level. Unit 1 provides an explanation of Land Conservation Committees and Land Conservation Departments, and highlights the relationship between the two in terms of local conservation efforts. Unit 2 traces the historical roots of conservation in Wisconsin. Unit 3 provides more detail about the roles and responsibilities of the members of county Land Conservation Committees as described by Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. In Unit 4, the handbook goes on to explore the vital relationship LCCs and LCDs have with other local, state and federal governments. Organizations that provide assistance to LCCs and LCDs are also described. Unit 5 provides tips on becoming an effective LCC member.

There is, however, considerable ground these pages do not cover. The handbook does not suggest how LCCs should operate. Omitted is any information on work planning, evaluating or reporting. Nor is there anything about developing budgets, structuring meetings or the LCC as an employer. These topics are local matters, best addressed by individual LCCs themselves.

Our hope is that LCC members think of this handbook as a companion. We ask that you take it along to LCC-related functions. Refer to it often. Write in the margins. When you've put this handbook to the test, contact the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association and give us your suggestions so that future editions may be improved.



## **Unit 1:**

# **Conservation at the County Level: Land Conservation Committees and Land Conservation Departments**

### **1. What is a Land Conservation Committee (LCC)?**

Land Conservation Committees (LCCs) were created through state law. Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes (Chapter 92) required all counties create a Land Conservation Committee to carry out their responsibilities for conserving soil, water and related natural resources. See Appendix H for the entire statute. Let's take a closer look at LCCs.

LCCs oversee the administration and implementation of conservation programs to meet local priorities and the needs of land users. These programs might be local programs, or state programs that are implemented at the local level. Locally implemented conservation programs across the state address a variety of resource issues, including but not limited to:

- Controlling soil erosion
- Managing manure and nutrient applications
- Planning for future land use
- Protecting important land areas
- Managing groundwater
- Managing and controlling urban stormwater runoff
- Managing lakes, rivers and shoreline areas
- Protecting and restoring wetlands
- Managing forest resources
- Controlling invasive species

Unless skillfully implemented, even the best conservation programs can do little to assist local residents and protect valuable resources. Effective coordination and implementation of conservation programs at the local level is the primary role and the major challenge for Land Conservation Committees.

### ***Who serves on the Land Conservation Committee?***

Chapter 92 specifies LCC makeup as:

- ◆ At least 2 persons serving on the county's Agriculture and Extension Committee;
- ◆ One representative of the county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA, formerly ASCS) committee;
- ◆ Any number of county board members; and
- ◆ Up to 2 members that are not on the county board.

### ***How long do members serve?***

LCC members serve two-year terms or until a successor is appointed. Surveys indicate that approximately one-third of members are replaced every two years following county board elections and committee reorganization.

### ***Who advises the land conservation committee?***

The county board appoints advisors to the LCC. Each county committee that deals with natural resources including county zoning, land use, forestry, parks and solid waste committees, must be represented. Additionally the LCC may invite a representative from the agencies and organizations with which it has a Memorandum of Understanding, such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The public also acts in an advisory capacity to LCCs by participating in LCC-sponsored public meetings.

## **2. What is a Land Conservation Department (LCD)?**

The Land Conservation Department (LCD) is made up of employees of the county. According to Chapter 92, land conservation department staff may exercise the powers granted to the LCC and serve as the vehicle by which LCC policies are carried out. The key provision in Chapter 92 (Wis. Stats. 92.09) allows LCD staff to carry out LCC powers and directives, and therefore, the LCD serves as its committee's right arm.

Most LCCs have a direct role in hiring LCD staff to implement their programs. Because of differing county administrative structures, some LCCs are not directly involved with hiring staff.

## **3. What is the relationship between the LCCs and LCDs?**

We have just described that the Land Conservation Committee has statutory responsibility to conserve local soil, water and related natural resources and that the Land Conservation Department provides the assistance to the committee to help them meet this responsibility. In this way, the county LCC and LCD function together with a common purpose of conserving the county's natural resources. The LCC is often responsible for a particular project or task but may rely on LCD staff advice and assistance. For example, participation in a given state program may require the LCC to submit a workload plan identifying the conservation work in the county and the various resources needed to complete the work. LCC members are responsible for the plan and its approval. The LCD assists the LCC in the development and implementation of this plan through the exercise of the powers granted to the LCC, with the approval of the LCC.

It is often the case that LCCs influence, contribute to, and support the LCD's work. Other examples of shared effort include:

- Establishing priorities for addressing resource challenges;

- Deciding what types of conservation assistance will best serve the needs of county land users; and
- Coordinating cooperation from agencies and other departments of county government to accomplish goals and tasks.

In summary, the LCC provides leadership, support, advice and constructive criticism to its land conservation department. The LCD carries out LCC policy on a daily basis. Although the LCD is indispensable to the success of any county’s conservation effort, the LCC is ultimately responsible for the conservation of the county’s natural resources.

Here are examples of the division of responsibilities found in most counties:

**LCC**

**LCD**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sets policy and program goals</li> <li>● Provides leadership</li> <li>● Approves the LCD budget</li> <li>● Approves the LCD work plans</li> <li>● Supports the LCD</li> <li>● Advises the county board</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Administers the LCC policy and programs</li> <li>● Advises and informs the LCC</li> <li>● Prepares the LCD budget</li> <li>● Prepares the work plan</li> <li>● Provides technical assistance</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**4. Unit Summary**

- **Land Conservation Committees (LCCs) are created by Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.**
- **Land Conservation Committees are responsible for the coordination and implementation of conservation programs to meet local soil, water and related natural resource priorities. These responsibilities are described in Chapter 92.**
- **The Land Conservation Department is made up of county employees who assist LCCs in meeting their statutory responsibilities and implementing county conservation programs.**



## **Unit 2: Historical Perspective on Conservation**

### **1. Origins of the Conservation Movement**

Most would agree that the national emergency we called the Dust Bowl gave birth to the modern soil and water conservation movement in this country. During the 1930's, dust storms originated in the Great Plains swept across the nation, resulting in ruined land, dead livestock, human suffering, and forced abandonment of farms. Improper use of farmland, overgrazing of rangeland and drought combined to cause the Dust Bowl. More than any other event, this calamity made clear the necessity of conserving natural resources.

Our national government responded by establishing the Soil Erosion Service (SES) in 1933. The SES organized large-scale conservation demonstration projects around the country. The first of these projects was set up in Wisconsin in the Coon Creek watershed, covering parts of Vernon, LaCrosse and Monroe counties.

Although successful, a more effective, broad-based way of introducing land users to conservation was needed. This new approach would have to respond adequately to local farming conditions and local conservation priorities. In turn, it would enjoy the benefits of local support, local participation, and especially local leadership. The answer was the creation of the conservation district.

### **2. History of the LCCs in Wisconsin**

#### ***Conservation Districts Formed***

Congress passed a Model Conservation District Law in 1937 that enabled states to receive technical assistance from the federal Soil Conservation Service which replaced the Soil Erosion Service in 1935. Conservation districts were designed as the special purpose units of government (like school districts) that would run on state and local funding, be locally administered and rely on voluntary land user participation.

Wisconsin's Soil Conservation District law was enacted in 1937 as Chapter 92 of the state statutes. A revision in 1939 empowered county boards to create conservation districts along county boundaries, linking conservation to county government.

Throughout the 1940's and 50's, most Wisconsin counties formed conservation districts. These districts were governed locally by the Agriculture and Extension Committee of the county board. At the state level, a Board of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was formed and attached to the University of Wisconsin-Extension to coordinate and oversee conservation district activities.

#### ***Land Conservation Committees Created***

The conservation district system remained in place until 1982 when Chapter 92 underwent extensive revision. Wisconsin's policy makers wanted to improve the capability of county

government to administer conservation programs and establish links among all county departments involved in natural resource protection. To achieve this goal, conservation districts were abolished and their powers and authorities were transferred to newly created Land Conservation Committees (LCCs).

LCCs emerged as a potent force for conservation. Unlike the conservation districts they replaced, the LCCs were now part of the county board and possessed legislative and taxing authority.

It should be noted that Wisconsin's county LCC structure differs from other states. Across the United States, nearly 3,000 conservation districts—almost one in every county—help local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. Known in various parts of the country as “soil and water conservation districts,” “resource conservation districts,” “natural resource districts,” “land conservation committees” and similar names, they share a single mission: to coordinate assistance from all available sources—public and private, local, state and federal—in an effort to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns.

More than 17,000 citizens serve in elected or appointed positions on conservation districts' governing boards. The districts work directly with millions of cooperating land managers nationwide to manage and protect natural resources.

### 3. Unit Summary

- **The Dust Bowl is generally accepted as the birth of the modern soil and water conservation movement.**
- **The Wisconsin Soil Conservation District law was enacted in 1937 to create conservation districts along county boundaries.**
- **In 1982, Chapter 92 was revised to abolish conservation districts and create Land Conservation Committees in Wisconsin.**
- **Land Conservation Committees are a part of the county board and possess legislative and taxing authority.**
- **Wisconsin's system of Land Conservation Committees is different than the rest of the country, which still follows the conservation district model.**

### 4. Additional Information

- **A useful book to learn more is *Soil Conservation in Wisconsin: Birth to Rebirth*, written by Leonard C. Johnson.**

- **Additional information on conservation districts can be found on the National Association of Conservation Districts' Web site at <http://www.nacdnet.org/about/districts/index.phtml>.**
- **A timeline of key events in Wisconsin conservation program history can be found in Appendix F.**



## **Unit 3: Roles and Responsibilities of LCCs**

### **1. Land Conservation Committees and Chapter 92**

Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which creates LCCs, is the state's soil and water conservation law. The statute "... declares it to be the policy of the state to halt and reverse the depletion of the state's soil resources and pollution of its waters." To carry out this policy, the legislature enacted Chapter 92 to:

- ◆ Establish goals and standards for conservation of soil and water resources;
- ◆ Provide for cost-sharing, technical assistance, educational programs and other programs to conserve soil and water resources;
- ◆ Encourage coordinated soil and water conservation planning and program implementation; and
- ◆ Enable the regulation of harmful land use and land management practices by county ordinance where necessary.

The statute explains why the state and county are involved in natural resource conservation. It lays out the basic organizational framework for implementing the state's conservation policy and identifies the conservation work to be done and who is responsible for completing this work. Land Conservation Committees are a key component of this law. Under Chapter 92, Land Conservation Committees must meet defined statutory responsibilities. The law also authorizes committees to carry out state and federal programs, and grants them powers to address local resource concerns through the adoption of strong local conservation programs. As a member of your county's LCC, you have a responsibility to understand Chapter 92 and the powers that you are granted to meet your statutory responsibilities and address local conservation concerns.

#### ***What are the statutory responsibilities of LCCs?***

Chapter 92 requires certain activities of LCCs. Under Chapter 92, LCCs shall:

- ◆ Prepare and implement a land and water resource management plan;
- ◆ Prepare a soil and water conservation plan for land under a farmland preservation agreement (if the county participates) and ensure compliance with this plan;
- ◆ Actively solicit public participation in planning and evaluating their soil and water conservation programs;
- ◆ Adopt soil and water conservation standards for the Farmland Preservation Program and submit them to the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) for approval (if the county is a participant in this program) and monitor compliance with these standards; and
- ◆ Follow the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) procedures and requirements in order to receive funding through DATCP's soil and water resource management program (SWRM).

To meet these statutory responsibilities, Land Conservation Committees work closely with Land Conservation Departments, as well as with state and federal agencies. To learn more about land and water resource management plans, the Farmland Preservation Program and the DATCP funding through the soil and water resource management program, see the section on DATCP in Unit 4.

### ***What other powers may be exercised by LCCs?***

By statute, LCCs also have the following *permissive* powers. These powers *may*, rather than *shall*, be exercised by land conservation committees. Generally, LCCs are empowered to:

- ◆ Develop and adopt conservation standards for their county;
- ◆ Distribute and allocate federal, state and county funds for conservation activities;
- ◆ Encourage information and education programs;
- ◆ Carry out preventative projects for water conservation;
- ◆ Provide technical, planning or other assistance;
- ◆ Obtain property;
- ◆ Make equipment and supplies available to land users;
- ◆ Construct conservation structures;
- ◆ Adopt and administer conservation projects or programs;
- ◆ Make and execute contracts;
- ◆ Require payment for services;
- ◆ Enter lands of private owners;
- ◆ Employ staff; and
- ◆ Administer and enforce select ordinances.

Land Conservation Committees rely on their partnership with the Land Conservation Department to carry out these permissive powers to implement their local land and water conservation programs.

### ***Do LCCs have the power to regulate?***

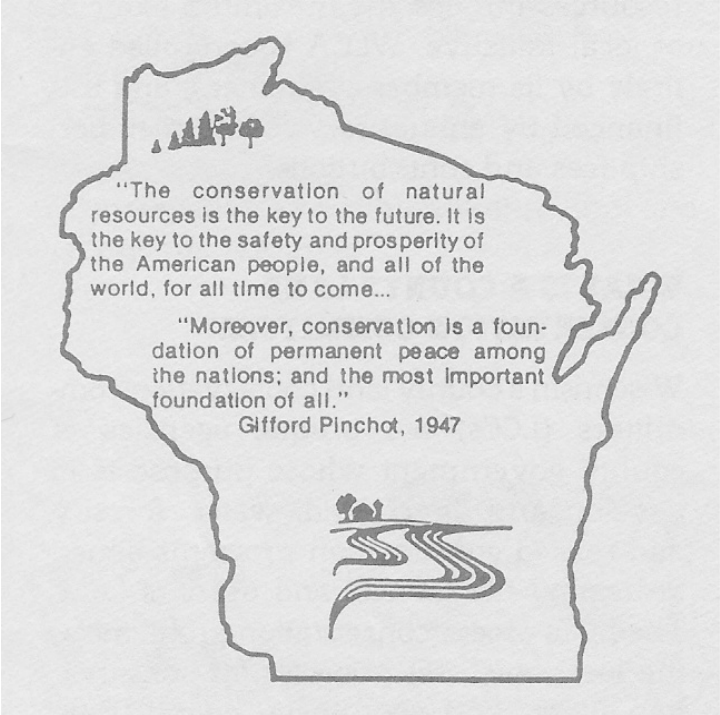
No, not by themselves. However, the state does grant LCCs the power to propose adoption of county ordinances to promote soil and water conservation or nonpoint source water pollution control. Once passed and adopted by the county board, such ordinances allow county regulation of land use, land management, and pollution management practices. (Note: some proposed ordinances must pass a public referendum before being passed by county board – see Chapter 92, Wis. Stats. for details.)

## 2. Unit Summary

- **Chapter 92, which created LCCs, is the state’s soil and water conservation law.**
- **LCCs have statutory responsibilities under Chapter 92.**
- **LCCs also have permissive responsibilities that empower them to conduct activities to implement local conservation programs to meet statutory responsibilities.**
- **LCCs may not regulate by themselves, but may propose adoption of county ordinances for regulation by the county.**

*“The days have ended when the forest may be viewed only as timber. The soil and water, the grasses and shrubs, the fish and the wildlife, and the beauty that is the forest much become integral parts of the resource manager’s thinking and actions.”*

Hubert Humphrey



## **Unit 4: Assistance and Funding for LCCs and LCDs: Partner Agencies and Organizations**

As stated previously, local government and the conservation movement have long enjoyed a close association in Wisconsin. With the 1982 revision of Chapter 92, land conservation moved into the mainstream of county government. As a result of this change, there is the opportunity for more effective coordination of county natural resource responsibilities and greater financial support of local conservation efforts.

Currently, many LCCs enjoy a close and productive relationship with other natural resource related departments of county government, such as planning, zoning, forestry, and parks and recreation. Many LCCs work closely with local municipalities, such as cities, towns, and villages, on conservation efforts.

As a function of county government, LCCs are responsible for developing the county's soil and water conservation programs. In this capacity they are also the primary means by which the state implements its conservation programs at the local level. The job of the LCC is to incorporate the applicable state programs into its county program. Several of the county's conservation needs can be met through state and federal programs and LCCs and LCDs work closely with state and federal governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations to carry out conservation programs at the county level. Through these partnerships, LCCs and LCDs can obtain funding and other assistance from these agencies and organizations. In cases where local needs are not met, the LCC takes the lead to develop their own local programs to complement the state and federal programs. In this way, LCCs can have substantial influence on state and federal legislation. This influence may be expressed by a single LCC at the county level, by a regional grouping of LCCs at the area level, or as part of a concerted effort through a representative organization at the state or federal level.

### **1. State and National Organizations Representing the Interests of LCCs and LCDs**

LCCs and LCDs play a critical role in setting conservation policy and shaping state programs. There are a number of organizations which work in the interest of counties and county Land Conservation Committees and Departments at the state and national level, including the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA), the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE), the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

#### ***Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association***

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) is a nonprofit membership organization representing the state's county Land Conservation Committees and Departments. WLWCA is divided into eight area associations consisting of member

Land Conservation Committees and Departments (see Appendix A). WLWCA is governed by a board of directors made up of one representative of each area association. WLWCA is funded mainly through county membership dues and grants.

On behalf of the LCCs, WLWCA staff work with elected officials and government agencies to secure financial and program support for local conservation activities. Staff also continuously inform LCCs and LCDs on state and national projects and issues. WLWCA sponsors conservation education and recognition programs, supports public and private actions to advance resource conservation, hosts an annual conference, and provides biennial training for LCC members.

WLWCA's conference is held the first week of December in varying locations throughout Wisconsin. General and breakout sessions provide information on current conservation issues and the annual business meeting is held on Friday. It is during this meeting that resolutions are voted upon which help guide the organization in the upcoming year. More on the resolution process can be found in Appendix B. Elections to appoint three representatives to the state's Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) occur at the annual conference during even-numbered years. As members of this board, these representatives provide recommendations that advise policy for some state conservation programs. To learn more about the LWCB, see page 26.

WLWCA has three committees which provide guidance on key issues in WLWCA's strategic plan: Legislative, Youth and Education and Member Training. All county staff and committee members are welcome on the committees.

For more information on additional programs administered by WLWCA, see Appendix D. For additional information about WLWCA, visit our Web site at <http://wlwca.org>.

### ***Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees***

The Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) is a professional improvement organization open to membership for Wisconsin's Land Conservation Department employees. WALCE promotes communication and program coordination between the county, state, and federal members of the conservation system, and it provides professional improvement training opportunities for LCD employees.

WALCE provides a forum for training, information exchange, communications with agencies, and input into legislation affecting land conservation programs and activities. Three committees help them meet these goals: Administrative, Professional Improvement and Technical.

For more information about WALCE, visit their Web site at <http://www.walce.org>.

### ***Wisconsin Counties Association***

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) is a voluntary membership organization that was created by Wisconsin State Statute (59.52(22)) for the furtherance of better county

government and the protection of county interests. WCA's direction is determined by its members and its Board of Directors consistent with the parameters set forth by the WCA Constitution.

WCA works diligently to provide services to its members that allow them to serve their constituents in the most effective manner possible. These services include a legislative team that serves as the voice of county officials at the state and federal level, public relations services that include the publication of a monthly magazine and a Web site, ongoing training and educational opportunities through seminars, legislative exchanges and an annual conference.

For more information, visit their Web site address at <http://www.wicounties.org>.

### ***National Association of Conservation Districts***

Organized in 1946, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) serves as the national voice for the conservation district movement. NACD pools the experience of over 3,000 districts (or LCCs, as they are called in Wisconsin) in developing national conservation policies on a continuing basis. Operational funds are provided by dues from member LCCs in Wisconsin, WLWCA, individuals, and member conservation districts nationwide.

For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.nacdnet.org>.

*“Conserve the land well, so that your children’s children and generations after them will inherit an even richer land than was entrusted to you.”*

Pope John Paul II

## **2. State Agencies and Boards**

### ***The Land and Water Conservation Board***

Chapter 92 also describes the roles and responsibilities of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB). The LWCB consists of state agency administrators, WLWCA elected representatives, and governor-appointed representatives. The LWCB is an advisory body to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Natural Resources, having no rule-making authority.

The Land and Water Conservation Board reviews and approves county soil and water conservation standards, reviews and recommends approval of county land and water resources management plans, recommends priorities for allocation of program funds and recommends funding program changes that will improve efficiency and effectiveness.

### ***Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection***

Chapter 92 names the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) as the lead agency for setting and implementing the state's soil and water conservation policies. DATCP achieves its statutory obligations largely through county Land Conservation Committees and Departments.

DATCP is responsible for assisting LCCs in developing, coordinating, and approving their DATCP-related conservation plans and programs. DATCP administers state cost-sharing funds for a variety of LCC operations, including staff and support for Land Conservation Department employees and cost-sharing to install conservation practices. Through its field service staff, DATCP provides engineering assistance and certification for local, state and federal programs. This service is provided to LCD technicians and other persons who design, review and approve agricultural engineering practices.

Land and Water Resource Management Plans (LWRM plans) and Soil and Water Resources Management Grants (SWRM). Many of the LCC's statutory responsibilities are related directly to some of the programs that DATCP administers. Under Chapter 92, county LCCs shall prepare and implement a land and water resource management plan. The LWRM plans are locally-led plans to reduce soil erosion and protect water quality. The requirements for developing a LWRM plan can be found in state Administrative Rule ATCP 50, which is the companion rule to Chapter 92. DATCP approves LWRM plans based on recommendations from the Land and Water Conservation Board and input from partner agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Counties with approved LWRM plans are eligible to apply for soil and water resource management grants (SWRM) from DATCP to aid in implementation of these local plans. The SWRM funds can be used to pay staff and support costs for Land Conservation Department staff and to provide county cost-share dollars for landowners to install conservation practices. For more information about the allocation process for the SWRM grant funds, see Appendix D.

Farmland Preservation Program. A county Land Conservation Committee whose county participates in the Farmland Preservation Program is also required to adopt soil and water conservation standards and submit them to the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) for approval. The three objectives of the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) are to preserve farmland, provide tax relief to farmers and conserve soil on cropland. The FPP provides income tax credits to farmers who agree to keep their land in farming and meet soil conservation standards on cropland enrolled in the program. County LCCs and LCDs provide assistance to participating landowners to meet the conservation standards and monitor compliance with the standards.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This program is a partnership between the USDA, the State of Wisconsin and counties. The goal of CREP is to enroll up to 100,000 acres of land in buffers and other conservation practices along water bodies. The project includes all or portions of 52 counties located in a grassland project area, Lake Superior project area and a riparian project area. Landowners can choose to enroll land into 15-year agreements or in a county- or state-held perpetual conservation easement. Counties and DATCP administer the state portion of the program and the USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service administer the federal portion of CREP.

Rural Clean Sweep Program. DATCP funds help county agencies conduct projects to help farmers properly dispose of pesticides and other toxic materials found around farmsteads.

### ***Department of Natural Resources***

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is charged with managing and protecting nearly all state-owned lands and protecting all waters of the state. DNR administers programs to regulate, guide, and assist individual land users in managing land, water, fish, and wildlife. Technical assistance and/or close-sharing is provided to county LCCs and LCDs through several DNR programs, a few of which are listed below. More information on other related programs can be found in Appendix D. For a complete listing of DNR grant programs on the internet, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/Grants/index.html>.

Targeted Runoff Management Grants. These water quality grants target high-priority resource problems that result from polluted runoff. Grants are awarded annually to local units of government on a competitive basis. Projects are generally small in scope, last 2 to 3 years and are targeted primarily at agricultural sites. LCCs may propose and/or approve local projects, provide local cost-share, enter into cost-share agreements with landowners, provide staff for technical assistance and design and demonstrate the presence of a local implementation program.

Priority Watershed and Priority Lake Grant Program. This water quality program focuses on selected watershed and lake projects impacted by polluted runoff sources such as manure runoff or streambank and shoreline erosion. County and municipal staff works with landowners to design and install the most effective practices to control nonpoint water pollution. Applications for this program are closed, with the last existing grant ending in 2009.

Animal Waste Management Program. This regulatory program, administered by the DNR under NR 243, seeks to identify and correct animal waste related water quality problems. Large livestock operations (over 1000 animal units) are required to obtain permits governing feedlot runoff as well as manure storage and spreading. Smaller farms may be regulated when a significant water quality impact has been documented.

Runoff Performance Standards and Prohibitions. Chapter 281, Wis. Statutes, designates DNR as the central unit of state government to protect, maintain and improve the quality and management of the waters of the state, ground and surface, public and private. LCCs may be involved in several DNR water quality initiatives to address the problem of polluted runoff from both urban and agricultural sources. NR 151 sets statewide minimum performance standards along with manure management prohibitions to control polluted runoff from construction areas, developed urban areas, agricultural lands and practices, turf areas and certain transportation facilities.

LCCs and their departments along with regional DNR staff implement the agricultural performance standards and prohibitions. NR 151 also grants authority to local governments to enforce through ordinances or other means. Agricultural performance standards can only be enforced after cost sharing is made available. This is not the case for non-agricultural or transportation performance standards. More information is available at <http://runoffinfo.uwex.edu>.

### ***University of Wisconsin-Extension***

The University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) supports lifelong learning by bringing the knowledge and resources of the University of Wisconsin to people wherever they live and work. UW-Extension teams up county Extension faculty with regional and statewide specialists throughout the UW System to provide educational programming across the state. UW-Extension supports county land conservation activities through numerous programs, centers, and educators addressing agriculture, natural resources, and community development. Several programs are highlighted below.

UWEX Wisconsin Basin Education Initiative. This program involves a statewide network of fifteen *Basin Educators* who support natural resource education initiatives in all of Wisconsin's 23 major river basins. The Basin Educators design and deliver educational programs, assist organizations and build partnerships to promote understanding and stewardship of Wisconsin's natural resources at the watershed and landscape scale. Supported by state-level publications and evaluation staff, Basin Educators work with WDNR, NRCS and LCDs to conduct educational program evaluations and develop educational materials related to natural resources. For more information, visit: <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/>.

UW Discovery Farms. The Discovery Farms Program conducts research and outreach on working Wisconsin farms in different geographic areas, facing different environmental challenges. The Discovery Farms Program uses a diverse network of farms to identify methods to reduce environmental impacts while maintaining or improving profitability. The network works with a systems farm at UW-Platteville and researchers at UW-Madison

to evaluate the effectiveness and cost of adopting nutrient management strategies and practices aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution. A primary objective is to establish baseline data that can be used to determine environmental impacts of various farm management practices. For more information, visit: <http://www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org>.

UW Nutrient and Pest Management Program. The Nutrient and Pest Management Program (NPM) promotes agricultural practices that maintain profitable farms while decreasing some of the nonpoint pollution threatening Wisconsin's lakes, streams and groundwater. It provides farmers with the information they need to make management decisions on crop nutrient and pest control strategies. Farmer-managed, on-farm demonstrations of sustainable agricultural practices are the cornerstone of the program. These practical demonstrations show farmers that cleaner water and more profitable farms are compatible goals. For more information, visit: [http://ipcm.wisc.edu/npm\\_prog\\_info.htm](http://ipcm.wisc.edu/npm_prog_info.htm)

For additional UW-Extension program information, see Appendix D, or visit the following Web sites:

- UWEX Web site - <http://www.uwex.edu>
- Cooperative Extension Web site – <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/>
- Water Programs website: <http://clean-water.uwex.edu>
- Nonpoint Source website: <http://runoffinfo.uwex.edu>

### **3. Federal Agencies**

#### ***Natural Resources Conservation Service***

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, has long cooperated with and assisted Land Conservation Committees. LCCs work closely with NRCS to conserve land and water resources. NRCS is linked to many LCCs through mutual and local operating agreements. The agreements spell out the cooperative relationship between USDA and the LCC.

NRCS' primary role is to provide technical assistance for conservation planning, practice design and installation on private lands. NRCS is the lead federal agency for conservation on private lands. Since 1985 the federal Farm Bills have included conservation provisions such as the ones described below, to reduce soil erosion on highly erodible farmland, protect water quality and wetlands, and to encourage wildlife habitat.

Conservation Compliance and Sodbuster. Producers must implement conservation plans on highly erodible cropland to remain eligible for USDA farm programs.

Conservation Security Program. Provides financial support through stewardship payments to farmers using sound conservation practices. This program was implemented nationally in 2005 and is offered on a watershed basis.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program. EQIP is the primary program for financial and technical for conservation on agricultural land. Special emphasis and funding is offered for livestock operations to help meet water quality goals.

Other programs of special interest include: Soil Survey, Grazing, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Program (PL566), Wetlands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, National Resource Inventory, Plant Materials Program. Look for more program information at [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)

### ***Resource Conservation and Development***

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a program through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to stimulate economic development through wise use, conservation and development of natural resources. Wisconsin's seven RC&D areas cover the entire state, and governed locally through RC&D Councils consisting mainly of LCC members.

For more information on each of the Wisconsin RC&Ds, check <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd.html>.



### ***Farm Service Agency***

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is also part of the USDA and administers a variety of agricultural assistance programs including production controls, price supports and conservation. Each LCC has an FSA representative as one of its members. The conservation programs administered by FSA with NRCS technical assistance include:

Emergency Conservation Program. The ECP provides funds for emergency conservation measures needed due to drought, flood or other natural disasters.

Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. CRP and CREP provide yearly rental payments, incentive payments at signup, and cost-sharing to landowners to take eligible cropland and some marginal pasture out of production and put it into grass or tree cover for 10 to 15 years. Some wetland restorations are also completed through these programs. NRCS provides technical assistance for this USDA program.

## ***Forest Service***

An agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service (FS) manages the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin. The FS, through their State and Private Forestry branch, also partners with the Department of Natural Resources to provide funding and technical assistance to all counties. The Eastern Regional Office is located in Milwaukee. More information can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9>.

## ***Fish and Wildlife Service***

Part of the United States Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is the principal federal agency responsible for protecting and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife habitat. In Wisconsin the FWS manages National Wildlife Refuges such as Necedah, Trempealeau and Horicon. In addition they acquire land and water for waterfowl production areas and manage national fish hatcheries. The FWS also works with participating LCCs to protect and restore wetlands through a matching grants program and enrollment of land and water into the Wetland Reserve Program. A link to offices and services in Wisconsin can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/maps/wisconsin.htm>.

## ***Environmental Protection Agency***

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting the environment and public health by enforcing federal pollution control laws. It provides technical and financial assistance to reduce and control air, water and land pollution. EPA funds nonpoint source pollution control, Great Lakes and other environmental protection efforts in the state through the Wisconsin DNR. More information can be found at: [www.epa.gov/region5](http://www.epa.gov/region5).

## ***Army Corps of Engineers***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is one of the primary federal engineering organizations specializing in water resource management and enhancement. The Corps works with local communities to reduce flooding, regulates the filling of wetlands, provides natural disaster assistance, and operates reservoirs that provide flood control, water supply, fish, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Learn more at [www.usace.army.mil/](http://www.usace.army.mil/).

## ***National Park Service***

The National Park Service (NPS) administers national parks, monuments, lakeshores, seashores and scenic waterways. In Wisconsin that includes the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, St. Croix National Scenic Waterway, the Ice Age Scenic Trail and a portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Check out [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for more information.

#### 4. **Special Purpose Units of Government and LCCs**

Special purpose units of government were created by the state legislature to help meet specific conservation needs. Each has special legislative authority to help implement its programs. Three special units work with LCCs:

- **Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts** improve lakes and prevent the degradation of lake water quality;
- **Drainage Districts** construct and maintain drainage structures and systems within the district; and
- **Sanitation Districts** plan, construct and maintain sanitation systems, such as solid waste handling systems and sanitary sewers, within the district.

#### 5. **Unit Summary**

- **LCCs and LCDs have a number of state and national organizations that represent their interests.**
- **County conservation needs can be met through some state and federal programs.**
- **LCCs and the county conservation programs are among the primary means through which the state implements its conservation programs.**
- **County LCCs and LCDs work closely with a variety of state, federal, and non-profit agencies and organizations to carry out their conservation responsibilities.**
- **County LCCs and LCDs obtain assistance and funding through some state, federal and non-profit agencies and organizations.**

**Unit 5:**  
**Tips for Being an Effective LCC Member:**  
**Understanding and Promoting Conservation in Your County**

**1. Relationships and Expectations of LCCs and LCDs**

*Information below provided by Tom Davies, Winnebago County LWCD*

A. What the LCD expects from our LCC

**Communication, Contribution & Participation, Guidance and Support**

**Communication about county specific issues and priorities:**

- What water quality or other issues are you aware of or being asked about?
- What issues or topics are you concerned about relating to the LCD?
- What's happening within the county and other committees that might affect the LCD?
- What events, groups, clubs or organizations are you aware of that we could work with to achieve water quality improvement?

**Contribution & Participation:**

- Be prepared for the LCC meetings. Review meeting information in advance.
- Be willing to give your opinion on a topic or suggest agenda items or programs for discussion.
- Contact the LCD between meetings if issues or concerns arise in your area or you need more information regarding a certain subject.
- Provide feedback, whether positive or negative.

**Guidance:**

- Review, discuss and approve department policy, programs or resolutions.
- Establish official positions of the department or LCC.
- Provide advice on the best way to approach an issue, situation, a town or county board. Set and follow protocol within the county government system for policy or resolution creation and approval.
- Assist in developing a conflict resolution and appeal process for specific programs: agriculture performance standards, Farmland Preservation Program, Wildlife Damage, etc.

**Support:**

- Support LCD efforts and defend policy and procedures.
- Promote LCD and refer individuals to the department for service.
- Support LCD on County Board floor and during budget review.
- Support through additional organizations and agencies.

B. What LCC members should require of their LCD to be effective members

**Information & Education, Communication & Awareness and Explanation & Justification**

**Information & Education:**

- Provide a list of acronyms or abbreviations.
- Provide a copy of the county land and water resource management plan for review.
- Provide information about Best Management Practices (BMPs), including their features and the benefits of installing them.
- Explain programs and policies being implemented and administered.
- Explain the ordinances, permits and services administered by the LCD.
- Review information about the budget and funding sources.

**Communication & Awareness:**

- Explain the programs, services and BMPs currently being implemented or provided.
- Report on ongoing duties and issues consuming the day.
- Report on major issues the LCD is currently, or will be dealing with and the impacts.
- Provide information on available training that might be beneficial.
- Announce scheduled events that could be attended to gain insight and knowledge.

**Explanation & Justification:**

- Ask for answers to how, what, why and the justification or reasoning behind the answer. This will fortify your confidence and strengthen your ability to communicate, participate, guide and support your LCD.

## **2. Tips and Techniques for Communicating Effectively with Legislators and Staff**

### **Objective**

- Have a realistic idea of what can be achieved by contact with the legislator/staff.
- Know what you want the legislator/staff to do.
- Build legislator/staff dependence on you.

### **Follow a Plan of Action**

1. Research the background of the Representative or Senator.
2. Make sure you are meeting with the appropriate staff.
3. Look for a common link to the legislator's district.
4. Know your arguments and succinctly argue your case.
5. Bring handouts that can be easily understood by the legislator/staff.
6. Anticipate and be prepared to counter your opposition's arguments.
7. Try to think through the political impacts as well as the legislative impacts.
8. Outline legislative strategy to demonstrate how the desired result will occur.
9. Do not exaggerate or make up answers to questions. For questions you cannot answer, tell the legislator/staff you will get back to them.
10. Follow up with a note thanking them for their time and consideration.
11. Send the staff periodic notes and appropriate articles to extend your relationship.
12. Be visible at committee activity where staff may be present.

### **Determining With Whom You Should Meet**

- Legislator
- Staff
- Leadership policy committees

### **Ensuring That You Will Be Heard**

- State that you are a constituent.
- Inform the legislator that you are interested in legislation before the legislator's subcommittee or full committee.
- Explain how the legislator is personally involved and can benefit from addressing your issue.

### **Setting Up the Meeting**

- Send letter requesting appointment.
- Call for appointment. Ask for scheduler/administrative assistant.
- Follow up with letter confirming the appointment. "Thank you for agreeing to meet with me. I look forward to seeing you on . . ."

- Timing is important:
  - Note urgency of legislation.
  - Use recess downtime.

### **What to Expect from the Meeting**

- Be flexible. Legislator votes and floor action could interrupt or end the meeting.
- Know how to read legislator and staff reactions. (Staff comes in . . . “Maybe we should get started . . .”)
- Keep presentation to less than 10 minutes.
- Know legislation/political background.
- Be sure to “Ask for the check.”

### **Avoiding Meeting Pitfalls**

- Don’t surprise legislators, particularly staff.
- Don’t circumvent the staff.
- Don’t waste legislator/staff time.
- Don’t hide things in handouts or bills.
- Be courteous and respectful.

### **Leave a One-Page Summary of Information with the Legislator/Staff**

- Include in Summary:
  - Overview
  - Discussion
  - Conclusion
  - Action Needed
- Emphasize highpoints.
- Think about the language used. It frames the issue.
- Attach a business card and provide telephone number for more information.
- Constituent interest should be noted: “There are 2,000 people annually using the lake. . .”

### **Follow Up to Build a Relationship**

- Send thank you note to legislator/staff to follow up the meeting.
- Report to constituents and provide legislator/staff with copy of news release or publication.
- Send legislator/staff regular mailings and call to provide updates every 4-6 weeks.

### **Send a Copy of Your Correspondence to WLWCA**

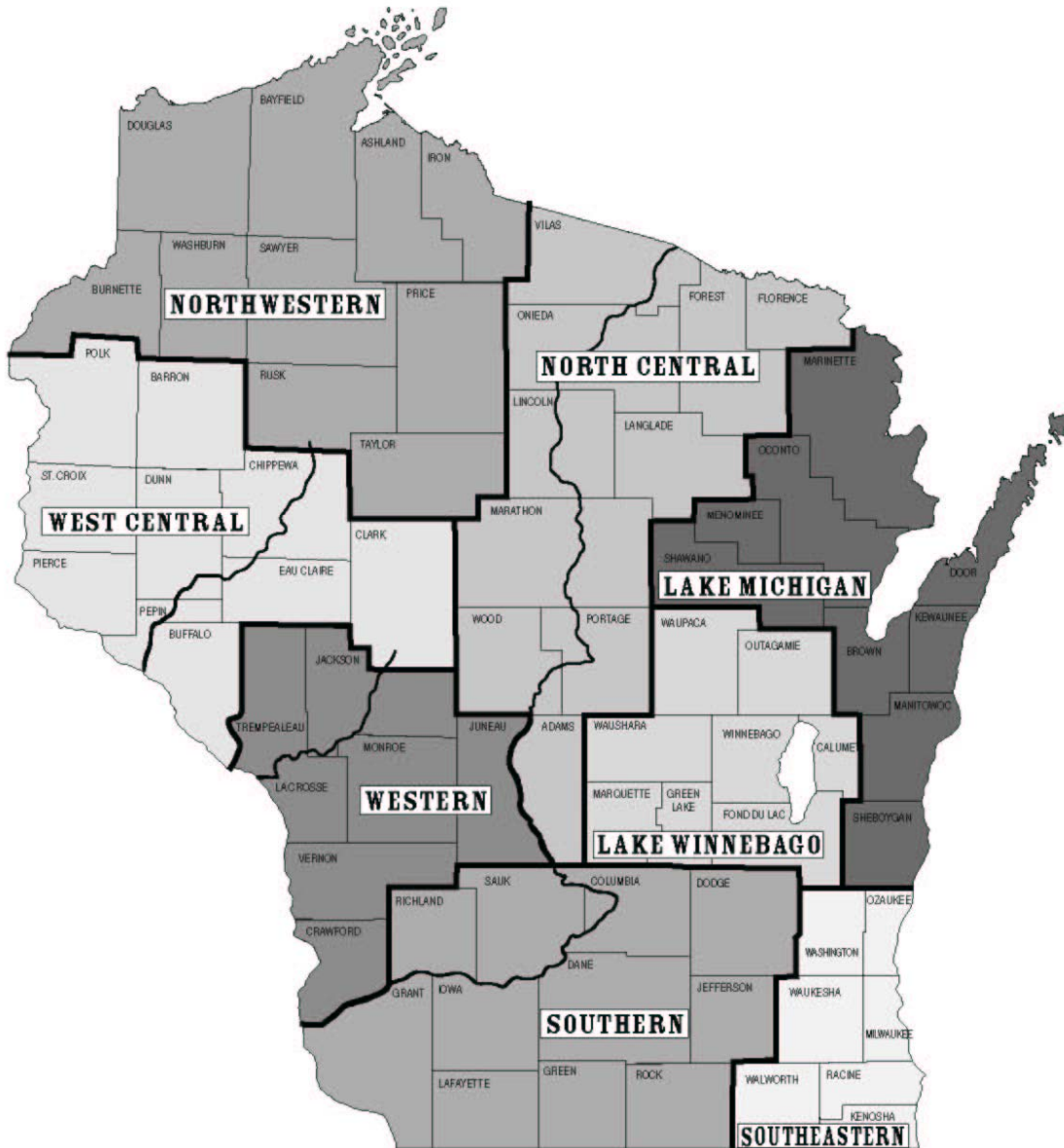
- The Executive Director of WLWCA will be able to follow up with legislators to further emphasize your points if you mail or fax copies of correspondence to him.

# APPENDIX A

## WLWCA Area Associations Map

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### Area Associations of Land Conservation Committees and Departments





## APPENDIX B

### WLWCA Resolutions Process

Resolutions are statements that provide direction for the organization to take. Any county that is a member of WLWCA can propose a resolution to the organization. Once a county passes a resolution, it is taken to the respective area meeting for a vote. Once passed at the area level, the resolution is submitted to WLWCA by the end of October. Resolutions must be accompanied by a *Resolution Attachment* which includes a contact person and additional information on the resolution, if necessary.

The board of directors either recommends or does not recommend their respective passage. All resolutions are then voted upon by the membership during the business meeting on Friday morning of our annual conference in December. Resolutions not submitted by the cut-off date may be brought to the floor during the annual meeting with a 2/3 vote. Passed resolutions will help guide WLWCA on future policy decisions.

For examples of resolutions from previous years, visit <http://wlwca.org> and then click on *Committees and other information*.

*“The history of every nation is eventually written in the way it  
cares for its soil.”*

Franklin D. Roosevelt



## APPENDIX C

### Important Events and Information

<b>Conservation Lobby Day</b>	Usually around the end of January in Madison
<b>National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting</b>	February 10-13, 2008 in Reno, Nevada
<b>Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees Professional Improvement Conference</b>	February 27-29, 2008 in Minoqua (date and location change each year)
<b>Wisconsin Envirothon, Amherst Junction</b>	April 24, 2008
<b>Conservation Observance Day</b> – A celebration honoring the previous year’s Conservation Farmer of the Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of June in the winner’s county
<b>Land Conservation Committee Supervisor Training</b>	June of even-numbered years
<b>WLWCA’s Annual State Poster and Speaking Contest, Stevens Point</b>	Saturday in Early November
<b>Wisconsin Land &amp; Water Conservation Association’s Annual Conference</b>	The first week of December (W-F): 2007 in Madison; 2008 in Appleton



## APPENDIX D

### Additional Program Information

#### 1. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association

**Conservation on the Land Internship Program.** WLWCA has coordinated this statewide program since 2003. Through partnering with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, we are able to help place approximately 25-30 interns per year in counties throughout Wisconsin. A part-time program coordinator works to identify host counties, posts available opportunities, and serves as the main contact for Land Conservation Departments, students and universities.

The majority of the interns work for county Land Conservation Departments; however some work at NRCS or RC&D offices. Their responsibilities vary greatly depending on county priorities, and some work includes GIS mapping, lake and stream monitoring, writing manure spreading plans, field checks, monitoring and controlling invasive species and organizing pasture walks.

**Standards Oversight Council.** Standards Oversight Council (SOC) is assigned the responsibility of overseeing the process used in Wisconsin for the development and maintenance of technical standards for urban and rural soil and water conservation practices. The SOC Coordinator is housed at WLWCA. Essentially, the SOC is the “gatekeeper” for the technical standards process, and it is responsible for the contents of the Technical Standards Process Handbook (TSPH) that serves as a day-to-day reference for everyone involved in soil and water conservation programs.

Many federal, state and local agencies in Wisconsin rely upon the same technical standards to implement numerous conservation programs. This diverse user group must deal with different mandates, goals, policies, deadlines and political pressures. The SOC is an interagency organization charged with working through these inherent difficulties and overseeing the development, maintenance and distribution of quality technical standards for conservation practices in Wisconsin. For more information, visit <http://www.socwisconsin.org>.

**Youth & Education.** Our Y&E program includes the Envirothon, the Poster and Speaking Contest and Conservation Camp.

- The Envirothon is a problem-solving natural resource competition for high school students. Teams of students are tested, on “in the field” test stations, their knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, water and a current environmental issue. The teams are also required to give an oral presentation on the current environmental issue. Participants gain teamwork skills, public speaking skills and are able to learn about careers in the environmental field. The winning team from the state competition then moves on to North America's largest high school environmental

education competition, where they compete with teams from throughout the U.S. and Canada for scholarships and Canon products. Not only a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about natural resource challenges in another part of the country, it is an opportunity for teachers to compare and discuss their environmental studies programs with one another.

- WLWCA sponsors the annual Wisconsin Poster and Speech Contest every November in Stevens Point. Since its inception, over 400,000 Wisconsin students and their families have participated in the annual event. While improving their public speaking skills and utilizing their creativity, students learn about the importance of conservation and preserving our natural resources.

The Poster Contest offers an opportunity to create individual artwork concerning subject matter of environmental awareness or conservation of natural resources. The Speaking Contest challenges students through the oral presentation of subject matter pertaining environmental quality and by demonstrating familiarity with the chosen subject. Participating students become eligible to compete in the State Contest by winning their respective county and area contests.

- Conservation Camp is for students who have completed grades 8, 9 and 10 and give them the opportunity to better understand and appreciate nature. While gaining teamwork skills and making new friends from around the state, students receive the best kind of teaching, both informative and experiential. They learn about a wide range of topics, such as wildlife, soil, erosion, pollution, ecosystems, water quality, aquatic habitats, orienteering and canoeing. It is held every June at Trails End Camp in Bruce, Wisconsin (Rusk County).

## 2. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

### **Soil and Water Resource Management Grants (SWRM)**

DATCP is authorized by s. 92.14, Wis. Stats., to award annual grants to eligible county LCCs and other cooperators to support conservation activities. DATCP awards grants to counties to pay for county conservation staff and to finance landowner cost sharing. To be eligible for grant funds, a county must have a DATCP-approved land and water resource management (LWRM) plan. DATCP awards grant funds as part of an allocation process working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The allocation process for SWRM grants involves these steps:

- (1) counties and others apply for grant funds,
- (2) DATCP evaluates applications based on grant criteria,
- (3) DATCP prepares a preliminary and final plan to allocate grant funds. Grant funds must be spent in the year allocated, except DATCP may extend cost-share funds for an additional year for specific projects.

DATCP administers grant funds by signing contracts with grant recipients. Grant recipients must use cost-share and other approved forms. DATCP reimburses counties and other grant recipients for expenditures up to the limit of their grant awards.

The Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program Working Manual and related information can be found at:  
[http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-ater/conservation/working\\_manual.jsp](http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-ater/conservation/working_manual.jsp).

Every year DATCP revises guidelines for auditors to check on county spending of state funds. DATCP also requires annual reports that describe county conservation activities. DATCP prepares reports to show how DATCP funds are spent. DNR and DATCP develop an annual progress report on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation.

For more information about Soil and Water Resource Management Grants Program, contact Kris Modaff, [Kris.Modaff@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:Kris.Modaff@datcp.state.wi.us), 608-224-4602, Dilip Patel, [Dilip.Patel@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:Dilip.Patel@datcp.state.wi.us), 608-224-4610.

Visit [http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/conservation/soil\\_water\\_rm.jsp](http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/conservation/soil_water_rm.jsp) for additional information.

### 3. Department of Natural Resources

**Private Forestry Assistance Program.** This program was designed to help private landowners manage their forest resources. Assistance is available through technical advice, financial and tax incentives, and information and education programs. DNR foresters typically assist forest owners with tree planting, harvesting and timber stand improvement. <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/private/>

**Solid and Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program.** This program works with industry, the public and other government agencies to reduce the volume of waste produced in Wisconsin. The program also helps ensure that wastes are properly handled, stored, recycled and disposed of in ways that protect the environment. <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/>

**Wildlife Management Program.** This program helps landowners and conservation organizations apply wildlife management practices to private lands. Private land managers work through other agencies' programs, such as the NRCS/FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), to create and restore wildlife habitat. <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/>

**Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection Program.** This program is responsible for protecting, maintaining, and selectively developing Wisconsin's fisheries and aquatic resources and serves over 2 million resident and nonresident anglers. The program protects and manages 9,000 miles of trout streams, 15,000 inland lakes, and 8,000 miles of rivers. <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/>

**Wildlife Animal Damage Abatement and Claims Program.** The goal of this funded program is to establish a county administered program to assist landowners with excessive levels of crop damage from deer, geese, bear or turkey. Counties are eligible to participate after passing a resolution endorsing participation and completing a DNR approved plan of administration. <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/damage/twotypes.htm>

**Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP).** This program is available to private forest landowners with between 10 and 500 acres to implement practices that protect, maintain and enhance forest resources. A few available practices include preparation of landowner Forest Stewardship plans, tree planting, forest stand improvement and fisheries habitat improvement. Contact the local DNR forester's office for applications. <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/private/financial/wflgp.htm>

#### 4. University of Wisconsin – Extension

**Environmental Resources Center.** Provides environmental management research, outreach, and education. <http://www.uwex.edu/erc/>

**Water Action Volunteers.** Provides access to information on volunteer monitoring. <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/>

**The Aquatic Invasive Species Program.** Focused on preventing the introduction of new invasive species to Wisconsin. <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/>

**The Center for Land Use Education (CLUE).** Promotes sustainability by creating learning opportunities for communities to help them make sound land use decisions that result in a sustainable Wisconsin. <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/>

**The Center for Watershed Science and Education.** Promotes responsible stewardship of water resources by suggesting strategies to help people and communities with lake, river and drinking water management issues. The Center provides education and technical support for water quality assessment and protection. <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/watersheds/>

**The Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center.** Provides information on private well testing and drinking water education, collects and disseminates data, and develops reports and maps relating to groundwater. <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gndwater/>

**The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership.** Protect and restore Wisconsin's lakes and watershed through pollution prevention, invasive species education and management, citizen volunteer monitoring, and recreational use planning. Web site – <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/>

## APPENDIX E

### Timeline of Some Key Conservation Events and Programs

<u><b>The Early Years – 1979</b></u>	
1937:	National Conservation District Law adopted to create conservation districts in Wisconsin.
1956:	Year by which all counties adopted conservation districts.
1970s:	County Soil and Water Conservation Districts hired the first District Coordinators (now often called county conservationists)
1977:	Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), (ch. 91, Stats.) established to preserve farmland through local planning and zoning by offering tax credits to farmers.
1978:	Priority Watershed Program established through Administrative Code NR 120 as the state's nonpoint source water pollution abatement program. Since that time, 86 of the state's watersheds and lakes have been designated as priority watershed or priority lake projects. Counties which contain all or portions of a designated watershed receive staffing and cost-share to help install best management practices within the watershed. The program was repealed in 1995 and the last projects will close in 2009.

<u><b>1980 – 1989</b></u>	
1982:	Chapter 92 revised by the Legislature. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are replaced by County Land Conservation Committees and Land Conservation Departments in Wisconsin.
1984:	DNR promulgates NR 243 which provides the authority to regulate nonpoint sources in compliance with EPA requirements. DATCP and DNR begin a joint animal waste regulatory program to address animal waste problems by issuing notices of discharge (NODs). Through this program, DNR issued NODs and DATCP offered cost-share grants to these farmers.
1985:	Language calling for soil erosion rates on individual fields to be below "T" by the year 2000 incorporated in state statute, s. 92.025(1), Wis. Stats.
1987:	The Legislature calls for a reorganization to allow better coordination between DATCP and DNR ( <i>1987 WI Act 27</i> ). Agricultural nonpoint pollution conservation programs reorganized at DATCP under the soil and water resource management (SWRM) umbrella.

<u>1990 – 1999</u>	
1991:	The Legislature creates the conservation engineering program and provided for the engineering certification program through DATCP ( <i>1991 Wisconsin Act 309</i> ).
1994:	Animal Waste Advisory Committee (AWAC) formed to recommend changes to the state Animal Waste Management Program for protection of water resources from the threats caused by improper management of manure. These recommendations led to the four AWAC manure management prohibitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No overflow from manure storage facilities.</li> <li>• No unconfined manure stacks within the Water Quality Management Area.</li> <li>• No direct runoff from feedlots and manure storage facilities.</li> <li>• No unlimited access of livestock to shore lands that prevents maintenance of adequate sod cover.</li> </ul>
1995:	The last priority watershed project designated by the Land and Water Conservation Board.
1996:	The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) was created through a partnership with DATCP, DNR, NRCS, UWEX, WALCE and WLWCA. SOC facilitates interagency cooperation to develop technical standards used by farmers, government staff and others to install conservation practices.
1997:	The Legislature passes <i>1997 Wisconsin Act 27</i> , calling for a redesign of the existing nonpoint pollution abatement program. The act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised the basic county annual staffing grant by combining the former basic allocation, training, farmland preservation staff and soil erosion control staff, support and cost-share portions into one block grant to the counties.</li> <li>• Established a multi-year phase out period for the Priority Watershed and Priority.</li> <li>• Created a new funding category in state statute for the implementation of the newly established land and water resource management plans.</li> <li>• Directed DNR to draft nonpoint “performance standards &amp; prohibitions.”</li> <li>• Established a nutrient management program and nutrient management efforts began to be funded as a part of the implementation of the land and water resource management plan.</li> </ul>
1999:	First year most counties in Wisconsin conduct the soil transect survey. Three years of survey results (1999 – 2001) indicated that approximately 82% of Wisconsin’s cropland was farmed to tolerable erosion levels.  Legislature passes <i>1999 Wisconsin Act 9</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First year counties received funding for implementation of LWRM plans.</li> <li>• Required that DATCP administer all state funding for county conservation staff and support through the SWRM program to implement the LWRM plans.</li> <li>• Directed DATCP to attempt to provide an average of three staff persons per county to conduct conservation activities at the level of 100% for the first position, 70% for the second position and 50% funding for any additional staff persons.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directed DATCP to attempt to provide an average of \$100,000 per county for cost-sharing grants.</li> <li>• Directed counties to implement new nonpoint standards statewide through the LWRM plans.</li> <li>• Established the TRM program at DNR.</li> </ul>
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<b><u>2000 – Present</u></b>	
2001:	<p>Last year of joint DATCP and DNR animal waste regulatory program to address animal waste issues through NODs. Program revived in 2007.</p> <p>Governor signs the agreement with USDA to begin the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in all or portion of 48 counties. Presently at 52 counties with the addition of the Lake Superior project area.</p>
2002:	<p>New administrative rule package (including ATCP 50 and NR 151) promulgated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATCP 50 set the current system for allocating staff funding to the counties and establishes existing cost-share requirements. Created a single grant category that includes funding previously used for separate projects such as FPP, soil erosion control and basic allocation.</li> <li>• ATCP 50 Clarified requirements for development of the Land and Water Resource Management Plans created by <i>1997 Wisconsin Act 27</i>.</li> <li>• NR 151 established agricultural and non-agricultural performance standards as part of the nonpoint pollution abatement program.</li> <li>• ATCP 50 established farm conservation standards and practices to be implemented locally through voluntary and regulatory approaches.</li> <li>• ATCP 50 requires FPP participants to meet soil and water conservation standards consistent with the agricultural performance standards and prohibitions found in NR 151 within 6 years of the county's adoption of the standards. The last county adopted these standards in 2004.</li> </ul> <p>All 72 counties complete first revisions of LWRM plans.</p>
2004:	Legislature established the Livestock Facility Siting Law in state statute, s. 93.90.
2005:	Legislature provided additional SEG funding (\$520,000) to cost-share nutrient management plans to reduce nutrient runoff in targeted areas for the 2006 and 2007 calendar years ( <i>2005 WI Act 25</i> ).
2006:	<p>Administrative Rules (ATCP 51) are promulgated under the Livestock Facility Siting Law (s. 93.90, Wis. Stats.) to establish standards for local regulation of livestock facility siting.</p> <p>DNR issues scope statement to amend administrative rules including NR 151 to add performance standards. (WI Adm Reg #610, October 2006).</p>
2007:	DNR and DATCP revive administration of animal waste regulatory program. DATCP allocates \$100,000 to fund animal waste regulatory actions through an NOD.

	<p>All counties will complete second LWRM plan revision to be consistent with the nonpoint rules issued in 2002.</p> <p>DATCP issues scope statement to amend administrative rule ATCP 50. (WI Adm Reg #617, June 2007).</p>
2009:	Final Priority Watershed Projects will close.

**Sources:**

- Division of Agricultural Resource Management Annual Reports. 1992 – present.
- Allocation Plans. 2001 – present.
- Personal Communication with Jim Arts, DATCP Deputy Secretary, and members of the Land and Water Resource Management Bureau.
- Historical Notes on Major Legislative Activity & Other Events for Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Programs. Perry Lindquist, Waukesha County Conservationist.

*As of August 2007*

## APPENDIX F

### ACRONYMS AND INITIALS

<b>ACE</b>	Army Corps of Engineers
<b>BMPs</b>	Best Management Practices
<b>CES</b>	Cooperative Extension Service
<b>CC</b>	County Conservationist
<b>CREP</b>	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
<b>CRP</b>	Conservation Reserve Program
<b>DATCP</b>	Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
<b>DC</b>	District Conservationist
<b>DOA</b>	Department of Administration
<b>DNR</b>	Department of Natural Resources
<b>DOR</b>	Department of Revenue
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>EQIP</b>	Environmental Quality Incentives Programs
<b>FLEP</b>	Forest Landowner Enhancement Program
<b>FPP</b>	Farmland Preservation Program
<b>FS</b>	Forest Service
<b>FSA</b>	Farm Service Agency
<b>FWS</b>	Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GLNAC</b>	Great Lakes Nonpoint Abatement Coalition
<b>ICWG</b>	Interagency Conservation Working Group
<b>I&amp;E</b>	Information and Education
<b>LWCB</b>	Land and Water Conservation Board
<b>L(W)CC</b>	Land (and Water) Conservation Committee
<b>L(W)CD</b>	Land (and Water) Conservation Department
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding (sometimes referred to as MOA or Memorandum of Agreement)
<b>NACD</b>	National Association of Conservation Districts
<b>NALMS</b>	North American Lake Management Society
<b>NCDEA</b>	National Conservation District Employees Association
<b>NPS</b>	Nonpoint Source Pollution
<b>NOD</b>	Notice of Discharge
<b>NPM</b>	Nutrient & Pest Management
<b>NRCS</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>PDPW</b>	Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin
<b>RPC</b>	Regional Planning Commission
<b>RC&amp;D</b>	Resource Conservation and Development
<b>SOC</b>	Standards Oversight Council
<b>SWA</b>	State Working Agreement
<b>SWCS</b>	Soil and Water Conservation Society
<b>SWRM</b>	Soil and Water Resource Management Program
<b>“T”</b>	Soil Loss Tolerance
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture

<b>USDI</b>	United States Department of Interior
<b>USGS</b>	United States Geological Society
<b>UWEX</b>	University of Wisconsin-Extension
<b>WAL</b>	Wisconsin Association of Lakes
<b>WALCE</b>	Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees
<b>WCA</b>	Wisconsin Counties Association
<b>WCCA</b>	Wisconsin County Code Administrators
<b>WDAC</b>	Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program
<b>WFLGP</b>	Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program
<b>WHIP</b>	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
<b>WLWCA</b>	Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association
<b>WRP</b>	Wetlands Reserve Program
<b>WTFC</b>	Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee
<b>Y&amp;E</b>	Youth and Education