



Dunn County Environmental Services Department
Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division
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2022 Annual Report

2022 Land Conservation Committee	
Thomas Quinn	County Board Member, Chair
Gary Bjork	County Board Member, Vice Chair
James Anderson / Monica Berrier	County Board Member
Mike Kneer	County Board Member
Diane Morehouse	County Board Member
Jim Thompson	FSA Representative
2022 LWCD Staff	
Chase Cummings	County Conservationist
Janell Newcomb	Program Assistant
Bob Kaner	Conservation Planner/Engineering Technician
Amanda Hanson	Conservation Planner
Heather Wood	Conservation Planner – Water Resources Specialist
Steve Olson / Rick Ingli	Conservation Planner
Tina Barone	Conservation Planner
Travis Drier	Conservation Planner – Nutrient Management Specialist

The mission of the Land and Water Conservation Division is to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural resources of Dunn County. All citizens and visitors of Dunn County depend on healthy natural resources to thrive. The condition of our natural resources impacts the health and economic well-being of our society.

The Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) is tasked with the administration and implementation of several programs. Those programs include, but are not limited to: the Land and Water Resource Management Plan including the Wisconsin Administrative Code NR151 (also known as the Agriculture Performance Standards and Prohibitions); the Soil and Water Resource Management Program; the Conservation Aids Program; the Farmland Preservation Program; the Agriculture Performance Standards and Manure Storage and Management Ordinance (Chapter 10); the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance (Chapter 20); the Hay River Farmer-Led Watershed Group; the Red Cedar Conservation Farmers Watershed Group; the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm and the Soil and Water Quality Health Partnership; the Snowmobile Trail Aids Grant; the Wildlife Damage, Abatement and Claims Program; maintaining the PL566 Flood Control structures (also known as the Knights Creek Watershed structures); planning and participating in educational and outreach opportunities and events; and, providing technical and cost-share assistance for conservation practices to enhance soil health and water quality.

The LWCD is also involved with the implementation of the Ad-Hoc Groundwater Committee recommendations; the Livestock Operations Study Group outcomes; the implementation of the Watershed Plan for the Red Cedar River; the Livestock Siting Ordinance; the Land Division Ordinance; and review of sewer and water extension services for the City of Menomonie. In 2022, the LWCD also facilitated a transition of grant funds from the DNR to Beaver Creek Reserve for Aquatic Invasive Species services; and, partnered with the Public Health Department to provide opportunity for a voluntary private well monitoring program.

The LWCD, in partnership with the Public Health Department, began the organizing and recruitment of the countywide groundwater testing program in 2022. This program was approved with the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds (\$175,000) and has over 1,000 citizens register to get their drinking water tested. Actual collection and analysis of the samples will occur in 2023.

The LWCD continued to participate in the phosphorus Multi-discharger Variance Program (MDV). The MDV program for phosphorus extends the timeline for complying with low-level phosphorus limits for point source

dischargers, such as municipal wastewater treatment facilities or industrial/commercial processing facilities. Funds from this program have been awarded to Dunn County to offset phosphorus loading in the Red Cedar and Lower Chippewa River watersheds. Funds generated in the Red Cedar watershed have been used to install approximately 16 acres of grassed buffers as well as other conservation projects yet to be constructed. Funds generated in the Lower Chippewa River watershed have been used to assist in the completion of a project near Elk Creek Lake. This project was in cooperation with the Elk Creek Lake District, Town of Spring Brook, Eau Claire County, DATCP and DNR. The project stabilized a long term source of sediment to Elk Creek Lake.



Elk Creek Lake District Project (Bob Kaner-LWCD)



Rye & Soil Health Field Day – Maple Hills Dairy
(Farmer Led Watershed Groups)

The LWCD is tasked with a variety new or different topics in any year, which can require varying amounts of staff time; however, we were still able to accomplish many of our goals. Table 1 below illustrates the types of practices and programs accomplished in 2022. This list is not all inclusive. Each year brings new projects, some of which require grant assistance. Many of our projects typically take more than one year to complete. For example, the LWCD applied for a Notice of Discharge Grant in the amount of \$796,150 to assist a farm in addressing compliance issues with a failing manure storage structure. While the grant was applied for and awarded in 2022, the construction of the project is expected in 2023.

Additionally, staff within the LWCD as well as other County staff, were tasked with facilitating and processing a petition to the County Board to form the Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District. Navigating the various codes and supporting information provided for an interesting second half of the year. The decision to approve or deny the petition is set to be made in 2023. Table 2 below illustrates where LWCD staff spent their time in 2022, based on our broad program areas.

We look forward to the opportunities for additional work in the assessment and tracking of our surface water and groundwater resources, growth within the Farmer-Led Watershed Councils, increased participation in the Farmland Preservation Program, further work in the reduction of phosphorus, nitrate, and sediment to our water resources, and the construction and implementation of sound conservation practices. Finally, we look forward to continuing to build positive and productive relationships with the land users of Dunn County to support the mission of the LWCD.

Table 1: 2022 LWCD Accomplishments and Statistics

Total Cropland (acres) (2017 Census of Agriculture):	240,765
Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) submitted (acres):	55,918
Cropland covered by a NMP (%):	23
NMP (new acres cost-shared):	1,333
NMP (new cost-share \$):	53,320
NMP – CVTC Farmer Trainings (# participants):	11
Total LWRM Conservation Practices (#):	9
Total LWRM Conservation Practices (\$):	80,650
Grassed Waterways (new acres):	1
Concentrated Flow sod establishment (feet):	0
Cover Crops (new acres):	2,921
Full Season Cover Crops (new acres):	0
No-till (new acres):	3,633
Grade Stabilization structures (#):	6
Critical area stabilization (new acres):	1
Barnyard runoff control (#):	0
Manure storage closure (# permits):	5
Stream crossing (#):	0
Livestock fencing (feet):	0
Wells decommissioned (#):	0
CREP-Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (new acres):	14
LWCD assistance on NRCS (EQIP) funded practices (#):	1
LWCD assistance on NRCS (EQIP) funded practices (\$):	NA
Invasive species issues (#):	1
Wetland restoration (#):	0
No-till Drill, Mulcher Rental Program (# participants):	24
Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation permits (#):	22
Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation onsite reviews/inspections (#):	2
Total Farm Evaluations/Inspections (a. – d.) (#):	27
<i>a.) NR151 compliance determinations (#):</i>	11
<i>b.) Farmland Preservation farm reviews (#):</i>	12
<i>c.) Manure Management Ordinance (#):</i>	4
<i>d.) Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance (#):</i>	0
Farmland Preservation Program – tax credit eligible (acres):	16,541
Farmland Preservation Program – tax credit eligible landowners (#):	64
Stormwater and construction site erosion control review (Major Subdivisions) (#):	1
Snowmobile Bridges (# new):	2
Snowmobile Trails (grant funded miles):	311
Snowmobile Trail/Bridge grant (\$):	186,650
Private Well Monitoring (# samples):	3
Field Days/Tours/Workshops/Presentations (#):	29

Table 2: LWCD Staff Time Analysis

LWCD Programs for 2022	% of 1 FTE	% of 8 FTE
Ag Performance Standard Ordinance (Ch. 10)	53	7
Conservation Organizations (Lake Districts, HEAT, RCWQP, RC Conference, WIL+W, etc.)	27	3
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	10	1
Red Cedar Demo Farm	14	2
Producer/Farmer Led Watershed Groups	62	8
Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)	14	2
Groundwater - Ad Hoc	7	1
Groundwater - Ad Hoc - ARPA drinking water program	11	1
Knights Creek Dams/Flood Control Structures	13	2
Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV)	7	1
Nutrient Management Planning	19	2
Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Ordinance (Ch. 20)	28	3
Snowmobile Trail Aids Grants	19	2
Technical: planning, design, construction of practices	65	8
Water monitoring: streams, WellIntel	8	1
LWRM Plan implementation & administration	279	35
Other programs and workload	37	5

LWCD Partner Agencies and Organizations:

Alliance of Dunn County Conservation and Sports Clubs
Beaver Creek Reserve
City of Menomonie
County Departments/Divisions
CVTC – Chippewa Valley Technical College
DATCP – Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
DNR – Department of Natural Resources
Hay River Farmer Led-Watershed Council
HEAT – Healthy Environment Action Team
LCIP – Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership
Red Cedar Basin Assessment
Red Cedar Conservation Farmers Watershed Council
Red Cedar Demonstration Farm and Farm Networks
Red Cedar Water Quality Partnership
Red Cedar Watershed Conference
Townships
USDA-FSA – Farm Service Agency
USDA-NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
UW-Stout
Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WIL+W)

**Respectfully submitted,
Chase Cummings, County Conservationist**