

**DODGE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
127 EAST OAK STREET
JUNEAU, WI 53039
February 23, 2015**

The Dodge County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) met on February 23, 2015 beginning at 8:30 AM in Room 3A of the Dodge County Administration Building.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Nelson at 8:30 AM with the following members present: Ed Nelson, Dale Macheel, Gerald Adelmeyer, Bill Muche, Howard Kriewald, Larry Bischoff, and Bill Foley.

Other Dodge County Board Members, Dodge County Staff and Agency Advisors Present: Marc Bethke, Dodge County Land Conservation Department (LCD) County Conservationist; Jim Mielke, Dodge County Administrator; Janet Wimmer and Sheila Drays, Dodge County Human Services and Health Department.

Others Present: Ruth Johnson, Lake Sinissippi Improvement District Commissioner; Naomi Kriewald.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PERMIT CHAIR TO DEVIATE FROM AGENDA TO EFFICIENTLY CONDUCT MEETING: Motion by Bischoff to approve the agenda and to permit the Chair to deviate from the agenda to efficiently conduct the meeting, seconded by Muche. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Kriewald to approve the minutes of January 26, 2015 as sent by mail; seconded by Foley. Motion carried.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS: Ruth Johnson shared her concern over the quality of Dodge County's groundwater, and spoke in support of the county establishing a program for regularly testing private well water.

AGENCY ADVISOR REPORTS: There were no agency advisor reports.

REVIEW OF BILLS AND REVENUES: The committee reviewed bills and revenues as shown on the attached listing.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW AND REVISED CONSERVATION PLANS: Motion by Kriewald to approve signing one revised conservation plan as presented for committee consideration; seconded by Muche. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED PRIVATE WELL WATER TESTING PROGRAM: The committee reviewed and discussed a proposed program for testing of private wells in Dodge County (see attached). Marc Bethke also shared some background information related to existing private well water testing activities currently in place in Dodge County. Following discussion, a motion was made by Foley to approve the Dodge County Private Well Water Testing Program as presented; seconded by Kriewald. Motion carried.

LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM – MONTHLY REPORT: No written report was distributed. However, Marc Bethke reported that the Dodge County Highway Commission is seeking cost share funding to decommission a well discovered on county highway right-of-way in the Town of Trenton.

COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST MONTHLY REPORT: SIGNIFICANT WORK ACTIVITIES, MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES: Marc Bethke presented the monthly County Conservationist's Report (see attached report).

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS: Jim Mielke and Ruth Johnson reported that the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District is continuing to consider various smaller sized projects for the year 2015. Bill Foley distributed copies of the recent Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association newsletter, copies of the 2015 lake association calendar, and also a handout with some recommended public television programs to watch on-line from Iowa Public Television. Dale Macheel reported on the February 12, 2015 meeting of the Fox Lake Inland Lake District. The lake district is working with their environmental consultant to secure grant funding to pay for a nitrogen management reduction project with the Fox Lake Prison Farm.

CORRESPONDENCE: Copies of the December 16, 2014 and January 13, 2015 meeting minutes of the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District were distributed for committee members to read.

PER DIEMS: Motion by Kriewald, seconded by Bischoff to approve the regular per diems, in addition to the following:

Dale Macheel – Fox Lake Inland Lake District Meeting on February 12, 2015 – per diem and 22 miles.

Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2015 beginning at 8:30 AM in the Dodge County UW-Extension Conference Room, 1st Floor of the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, Wisconsin.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before this committee, motion by Kriewald to adjourn at 10:00 AM; seconded by Bischoff. Motion carried.

Ed Nelson, Chair

Gerald Adelmeyer, Secretary

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BILLS & REVENUE

(BILLS)

Office Max - Office Supplies =	\$	14.23
USDA - APHIS -4 th Quarter 2014 Wildlife		
Crop Damage Program Expenses =	\$	5,718.55
Detjens Northern Trails, Inc. - 1 st Venison Donation Processing Bill =	\$	55.00
Pernat Haase Meats - 1 st Venison Donation Processing Bill =	\$	555.00
Town & Country RC&D - 2015 Membership Dues =	\$	150.00
Joe's Auto Service - Repair Wheel Bearing on 2007 Chevy Tahoe =	\$	511.62
Robert Bird - January 2015 Expenses =	\$	156.06
TOTAL =	\$	7,160.46

(REVENUE)

91 Small Packet Tree Orders =	\$	7,085.31
Two Landowners - Manure Storage Ordinance Earnest Fee =	\$	2,000.00
One Landowner - Manure Storage Ordinance Permit Fee =	\$	400.00
TOTAL =	\$	9,485.31

DODGE COUNTY
PRIVATE WELL WATER TESTING PROGRAM
(Draft Proposal)

GOAL:

To annually offer a private well water testing and education program for up to 150 households in Dodge County. The program utilizes the standard private well test - 'Homeowner Package' that is offered from the Center for Watershed Science and Education at the UW-Stevens Point. The water testing program is a collaborative effort with UWSP Groundwater Center, Dodge County Land Conservation Department, Dodge County University of Wisconsin-Extension, and Dodge County Human Services and Health Department.

Objectives:

1. To educate participating households about the safety of their well water and become more aware of the responsibilities of maintaining a household water system.
2. To refreshen and expand on existing base line data from past private well water sampling and analysis activities.

Steps of Action Needed:

1. At least one year in advance of a planned testing program, contact town boards to solicit their assistance with the private well water sampling program for their township.
2. Contact the Center for Watershed Science and Education in Stevens Point to reserve a date for sampling and analysis – can submit up to 150 sample bottles for analysis
3. Promote the Water Testing Program to Town residents by direct mailing, town board newsletter, county and department website and social media notifications, and print media press releases. (Perhaps also an insert with annual real estate tax bill).
4. Order sample bottles, have them delivered at least one week before the week of bottle distribution.
5. Deliver sample bottles to Townships about one week prior to the date of sampling (if a Town Board is not willing or able to coordinate bottle distribution and collection, county LCD or UWEX office could handle this). Provide training to town officials on how to instruct homeowners to properly take water samples.
6. Town residents are given about five days to pick up and pay for their sample bottles; all residents take their water samples and deliver them to the township drop off place on the same day.
7. Someone from the county will deliver water samples to Stevens Point for analysis.
8. After all samples are analyzed, an educational program is scheduled at the town hall where Ground Water Center Specialists present information on the elements of a well water test, and the household water system. Residents will receive their test results at the program and schedule follow-up education if they have well water issues.
9. Dodge County allocates \$5,000 to either the Land Conservation Department or UWEX budget to cover program costs. Costs could include direct mailings and other forms of advertisement of the program, travel expenses, and water analysis subsidies – possibly \$10-\$20 per sample per homeowner. **Participation by town residents is voluntary, and will be on a first come – first served basis.**
10. Dodge County is scheduled for batch sample analysis in May of 2016 (UW-Stevens Point is all booked for 2015).

FEBRUARY 2015 COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST REPORT

SIGNIFICANT WORK ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS:

- Worked with Jeff Hoffman (UWEX) and Jody Langfeldt and Sheila Drays (Dodge County Public Health) to prepare a private well water testing program in Dodge County
- Prepared Farmland Preservation Program Certificates of Compliance for program participants in Oak Grove and Elba that have achieved full compliance with soil and water conservation standards.
- Continued to take many phone calls from people with questions over Farmland Preservation Program conservation compliance and tax credit eligibility – prepared certificates of compliance for several new participants, and for new land being enrolled by existing participants
- Closed out the 2014 Land Conservation Department budget with Finance Department – under-spending for 2014 was nearly \$8,000.00
- Have been working on the 2016 SWRM Grant Application to DATCP – will have it ready for consideration at the March LCC meeting
- Small packet tree sales will be closed by Friday, February 27th – have sold approximately 22,000 trees and shrubs for delivery in spring 2015
- Robert Bird conducted the “Write Your Own Plan” farmer nutrient management training on January 21st, the “Refresher” farmer nutrient management training on February 18th, and will conduct the Snap-Plus farmer nutrient management training on February 25th. Attendance has been good at all sessions to date.

JOINT DATCP/DNR NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT APPLICATION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

Please read the instructions before completing this application.

Please complete all the applicable sections, print it for signature, scan it, and e-mail it to: datcpswm@wisconsin.gov

All counties must complete the required financial and staffing information.

Dodge	COUNTY REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING FUNDING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION UNDER SEC. 92.14, WIS. STATS., AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES UNDER SECTIONS 281.65 and 281.66, WIS. STATS. BY SIGNING THIS APPLICATION, THE AUTHORIZED COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE IS CERTIFYING THAT INFORMATION IN THIS APPLICATION (INCLUDING TABLE 1) IS ACCURATE.

SIGNATURE OF LCC CHAIR OR OTHER AUTHORIZED COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

NOTICE: This application does not represent a commitment by DATCP or DNR to provide funding for any grant category at any specific level.

SECTION I. STAFFING/PLANNING GRANTS		Amount Requested of DATCP	Amount Requested of DNR																
1	Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Tier 1 A. Base Funding Enter no more than \$75,000.	\$ 75,000.00																	
2	SWRM Tier 2 A. Funding for three positions Enter 100, 70, and 50% of the amount in Table 1, column F for each designated position <p style="text-align: center;">Amount from Table 1, column F</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">i. First (100%) position</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">\$97,907</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">\$ 97,907.00</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii. Second (70%) position</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$80,865</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 56,606.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii. Third (50%) position</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$80,675</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 40,338.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> B. Funding for subsequent positions Enter 50% of the amounts in Table 1, column F for other listed positions <p style="text-align: center;">Amount from Table 1, column G</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">iv. Fourth & more (50%) positions</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">\$193,648</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">\$ 96,824.00</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> </tr> </table>	i. First (100%) position	\$97,907	\$ 97,907.00		ii. Second (70%) position	\$80,865	\$ 56,606.00		iii. Third (50%) position	\$80,675	\$ 40,338.00		iv. Fourth & more (50%) positions	\$193,648	\$ 96,824.00			
i. First (100%) position	\$97,907	\$ 97,907.00																	
ii. Second (70%) position	\$80,865	\$ 56,606.00																	
iii. Third (50%) position	\$80,675	\$ 40,338.00																	
iv. Fourth & more (50%) positions	\$193,648	\$ 96,824.00																	
3	Urban NPS & Storm Water Management - Planning Projects																		
TOTAL STAFFING REQUESTS ▶		\$ 291,675.00	\$0.00																

SECTION II. COST-SHARING GRANTS		Amount Requested of DATCP	Amount Requested of DNR
1	Land and Water Resource Mgmt. (LWRM) Plan Implementation: Bond Funds	\$ 50,000.00	
2	LWRM Plan Implementation: SEG Funds Acres that will be cost-shared <table style="display: inline-table; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; text-align: center;">357</table> Rate if other than \$28 per acre <table style="display: inline-table; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px;"></table>	\$ 10,000.00	
3	Targeted Runoff Management Projects The application for this grant is available on the DNR website.		
4	Urban NPS & Storm Water Management - Construction Projects The application for this grant is available on the DNR website.		
TOTAL COST-SHARING REQUESTS ▶		\$ 60,000.00	\$ -

SECTION III. FINANCIAL AND OTHER DATCP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. FINANCIAL REPORT OF COUNTY LCD EXPENDITURES FOR 2014

1 Enter the total amount of all county LCD expenditures in 2014 from all funding sources. \$ 548,698.00

2 Enter the amount of expenditures in 2014 from all non-county sources. \$ 192,176.00

(Of the total expenditure listed in line 1, enter the amount that was funded using non-county sources. Non-county includes all grants, shared revenue, and any other funds from sources outside the county. Line 2 plus line 3 equals line 1).

3 Enter the amount of county source funding expended in 2014. \$ 356,522.00

(County source funding may include county levies, fees, permits, tree sales, or other funds generated by the county. This amount is used to determine fulfillment of maintenance of effort requirements).

4 Enter the amount of salary and fringe benefits paid using county source funding. \$ 313,908.00
(LINE 4 CANNOT EXCEED LINE 3).

5 Enter the total number of 2014 FTE funded by each of the following categories:

County	DATCP SWRM	All Other	*TOTAL 2014 FTE
3.9	1.9	0.2	6

**Total 2014 FTE should be equal to the sum of FTE listed in Table 1.*

B. 2015 ACTIVITIES PLAN

The county has provided a description of its planned activities for 2015 by (check one):

- certifying that the county's workplan on file with DATCP accurately describes its planned activities for 2015.
- attaching an update reflecting its 2015 planned activities to this application.

Reminder:

To be eligible for 2016 funding, your county must electronically submit its 2014 Annual Report to DATCP.

SECTION IV. VERIFICATION RELATED TO THE FIRST STAFF POSITION

Land Conservation Committee Oversight

1. Does the county have a Land Conservation Committee (LCC) or appropriate county board committee that carries out the duties authorized under ATCP 50.10, Wis. Admin. Code and ch. 92, Stats.? Yes

A properly functioning LCC or Appropriate County Board Committee:

- * Includes at least 2 persons who are members of the committee on agriculture and extension education.
- * Includes a chairperson of the county farm service agency committee or other county farm service agency committee member designated by the chairperson of the county farm service agency committee.
- * Approves all SWRM grant related activities under ch. ATCP 50, such as the grant application, grant contract, distribution and accounting of funds.

2. If you answered "no" to question #1, please mark the box that best describes the county official or entity that supervises your conservation program:

- County Executive
- Administrator
- Head of a Department (Describe): _____
- Other (Describe): _____

STRATEGY FOR USE OF LAND & WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN COST SHARING IN THE YEAR OF 2015

Priority Work Areas Within Dodge County:

- First Priority: East Branch Rock River, Upper Rock River, Sinissippi Lake – (Rock River Watershed)
- Second Priority: Drew Creek Watershed - (Fox Lake/Beaver Dam River Watersheds)
- Third Priority: All Remaining Watershed Areas of Dodge County

Priority Problems Eligible for Cost Sharing:

- Cropland Soil Erosion – Includes both sheet, rill, and concentrated flow erosion
- Two of the four statewide animal waste nonpoint runoff prohibitions – (polluted barnyard/feedlot runoff and eroded stream banks caused by unlimited livestock access)
- One of statewide nonpoint runoff performance standards – (To prepare and follow a nutrient management plan on cropland receiving manure or other nutrients)
- Groundwater Protection Activities – (Includes nutrient management planning, abandoning unused rural wells, abandoning manure storage systems, sinkhole sealing/closing, etc.)

Specific Criteria For Eligibility for Land & Water Cost Sharing:

- To receive cost sharing to correct cropland soil erosion problems:
 - 1) Sheet and rill erosion on the affected cropland must be above T, and/or the estimated sediment delivery is determined to be above 0.4 ton/acre/year
 - 2) Concentrated flow channel areas must have a high probability of eroding and causing sediment delivery (as evidenced by current or historical damage viewed by conservation office staff or the landowner)
- To receive cost sharing for manure management problems:
 - 1) A landowner must be found to be **out of** compliance with one or both of the animal waste prohibitions identified above under “Priority Problems Eligible for Cost Sharing”, and must also be found to be **in** compliance with all other applicable animal waste prohibitions
 - 2) Barnyards discharging between 10 and 40 pounds of phosphorus per year may be eligible to receive cost sharing for only lower cost practices such as roof runoff management, clean water diversions, and grassed buffers; and barnyards discharging more than 40 pounds of phosphorus per year may be eligible to receive cost sharing for additional runoff control/treatment practices. The maximum cost-share rate for eligible barnyards is 70% (may be increased to 90% if an economic hardship can be demonstrated)
 - 3) To receive cost sharing for manure storage, it must be determined that a landowner lacks adequate acreage on both owned and rented land for safe winter spreading of manure. Prior to receiving a cost share check for manure storage, a nutrient management plan must be completed and submitted to the land conservation department, including a full set of manure spreading restriction maps.

- To receive cost sharing for groundwater protection problems:
 - 1) A landowner has an unused rural well that has not been properly sealed and closed
 - 2) A landowner has an unused manure storage facility that has not been properly abandoned
 - 3) A landowner has an unprotected sinkhole likely to be adversely affected by runoff from cropland, animal waste pollutants, or other nonpoint source pollutants.
 - 4) A landowner has not yet received state cost share funding for preparing a nutrient management plan, and must be a livestock farmer, and/or is land applying manure to their cropland.

Cost Share Limits for Specific Conservation Practices:

- Maximum cost share rate for Well Abandonment is 70% of eligible costs up to \$500 cost sharing per well per cost share recipient. (Exception: Any well being abandoned due to manure contamination will be eligible for the full 70% rate of cost sharing)
- Maximum cost sharing for Manure Storage (when eligible) will be \$20,000 per cost share recipient
- Maximum cost share rate for Stream bank and Shoreline Protection will be 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$10 cost sharing per linear foot

Application and Screening Process:

- Applications for year 2015 cost sharing will be taken between January 1 and November 30, 2015. If several applications are considered to be of equal eligibility based on severity of problems and priority work areas within the county, priority will be given to applications in the order in which they were received. Applications received prior to May 1, 2015 will be given priority consideration, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.

March 23, 2015

Members of the Joint Finance Committee

Re: State Support for County Land Conservation Departments

Dear

County Land Conservation Departments (LCDs) are partners with Wisconsin farmers and play an integral role in Wisconsin's growing agricultural industry. Unfortunately, state aid from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for county LCDs has been declining for the past 15 plus years, and under the proposed 2015-2017 budget has been reduced to \$8 million annually for county LCD staff, which is down from the long-term average of 9.3 million.

We urge you to restore local staff funding to \$9.3 million annually in DATCP's budget.

The combined efforts of Dodge County farmers and Land Conservation Department staff to reduce cropland soil erosion and minimize the delivery of sediments and other pollutants to our surface waters and ground waters are making a difference. For example, annual county-wide surveys of cropland soil erosion indicate that soil erosion rates have been reduced by 25% since 1999. Water quality testing by the Wisconsin DNR and various lake groups indicate that, over the past five years, phosphorus concentrations in Fox Lake have dropped by 25%, and phosphorus levels in Beaver Dam Lake and the East Branch Rock River have also dropped. DNR electrofishing surveys have found strong populations of game fish and pan fish in both Fox Lake and Beaver Dam Lake.

For us to continue making positive progress in protecting and improving our land and water resources while at the same time assisting county farmers with their various conservation needs, proper funding for county LCDs is needed. Therefore, we urge you to restore these funds for state aid to county LCDs.

Sincerely,

Ed Nelson, Chair
Dodge County Land Conservation Committee