2008 GRANT COUNTY

LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wisconsin Act 27 (1997-1999 Biennial Budget Bill), Chapter 92.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes, includes provisions for county Land and Water Conservation Committees (LWCC) to develop county Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans. County LWRM plans are envisioned to be a local action or implementation plan with emphasis on program integration. The planning process will provide a more efficient and effective means to address resource issues, meet state performance standards, and more effectively allocate county, state, and federal resources. The Grant County LWRM Plan addresses local concerns by integrating county, state and federal programs.

Grant County has developed 10-year plan (2009-2019) even though the current process for plan approval is to develop a 5 year plan. In order for the main goal of our plan to be realistically achieved, we realize that it will take at least 10 years to accomplish. We recognize that at this time our plan will only be approved for 5 years.

The Grant County LWRM Plan was written with the assistance of a local workgroup and many partner agencies. The workgroup was comprised of agricultural producers, instructors, businessmen and concerned citizens. The agencies involved were Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension. Several meetings were held in April & May of 2008 to develop the resource concerns and performance standards implementation policy of the plan. A public hearing was held on August 4, 2008, which began the 30-day public comment period per statutory requirements. On August 19, 2008, this plan was submitted to the County Board for approval and acceptance.

In 1999, Grant County began using the Transect Survey to assess the resource use in the county. The survey has been going on now for 9 years and we are just starting to see trends occurring around the county. A positive trend is the increase in fields meeting tolerable soil loss, “T”. However, another trend is the decrease in forage crops. Even though the fields meeting “T” are increasing, we know we still have a lot of work ahead of us. Soil erosion was the number one resource concern determined by our local workgroup. This was followed closely by ground water quality.

There are ten major stream systems in Grant County. Seven are located in the Grant-Platte River Watershed and three in the lower Wisconsin River Watershed. Sediment from these watersheds settles out in the Wisconsin and Mississippi River backwaters, causing the pools to fill in. Areas that were fishable and boatable ten years ago are now filled in with sediment and vegetation. This has rendered docks and boat landings in these areas virtually useless. Identifying the problem was relatively easy compared to finding a solution. With the help of the local workgroup, we developed a plan to help address these issues.

The major objectives of the plan are:

- To control soil erosion in Grant County
- To preserve farmland
- To prevent contaminants from entering the groundwater of Grant County
- To prevent contaminants from entering the surface waters of Grant County
- To inform the public and keep them up to date on conservation issues

Before looking forward to the next 10 years of our plan, we first wanted to look back at the accomplishments of our previous plan.

- In order to achieve our first priority to control soil erosion we obtained $100,000 in county cost sharing, over $300,000 from DATCP, $299,000 from DNR and $2,000,000 from NRCS through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- We have continued to conduct our Transect Survey each spring, monitoring the trends of agriculture and soil erosion in the county
- We received two Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grants from DNR to implement erosion control practices in two 303D watersheds; the McPherson and the Snowden Branch
- We continued to enforce our Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance, issuing 22 permits to construct facilities and 11 permits to close facilities
- Through our county well decommissioning program, we have provided cost sharing to abandon 90 wells.
- Our annual county tree sale has provided over 54,000 trees to Grant County landowners
- We have enrolled over 800 acres in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

By utilizing the various county, state and federal programs available, Grant County will encourage the voluntary approach regarding compliance with the statewide agricultural performance standards. This, combined with the Grant County Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance and the county policy for Required Minimum Standards to Control Erosion, will give us many options to improve the area resources. A ten-year work plan can be seen on pages 19-28.

Agricultural land use is the number one priority areas with land draining to impaired waters next in line. Cost sharing programs will focus on controlling soil erosion from these areas. We will also be working with DNR to determine which impaired waters would be competitive in a TRM grant application

Our focus on the statewide agricultural performance standards (SAPS) will be bringing the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) participants into compliance. With over 800 participants in Grant County, we wanted to be careful not to eliminate participation due to the increased requirements to the program. Over the next ten years we will be meeting with each participant to help them develop a conservation plan that will keep them eligible for the program.

An annual review will ensure that the objectives of this plan are not lost. Through the combined efforts of many working together as a team, the resources of Grant County will become protected for future generations to see and enjoy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the Grant County Land and Water Resource Management Plan involved the expertise and knowledge of many people. Time was sacrificed to attend meetings, ears were bent to hear opinions and brains were racked to solve problems. Many thanks go out to all who helped on the plan. No matter how great or small the contribution, it would not have been possible to complete this plan without your help. Thank you for your assistance in making this plan a success.

Grant County Land & Water Conservation Committee

Paul Landon, Chair	Donald Splinter	Dwight Nelson	Vince Loeffelholz
William Biefer	Steve Adrian	Dave Klar	Marvin Kettler

Grant County Land and Water Conservation Department

Lynda Schweikert, County Conservationist	Al Neises	Randy Chambers
Kevin Lange	Annette Lolwing	

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Karyl Fritsche, District Conservationist		Ann Conley	Todd Cockroft
Dave Mours	Sue Rojemann		

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Dennis Presser

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bob Hansis	Jim Amrhein	Andy Morton	Jean Unmuth
Mike Degen	Craig Hollingsworth	Rick Dewitte	

USDA Farm Service Agency

Jack Wiederholt Dennis Hottenstein

Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development

Steve Bertjens

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension

Ted Bay Karen Talarczyk Peggy Compton

Local Workgroup Members

Agriculture Producer – Bode Brothers, Brian Crapp, Mike Porter, Shannon Wolf, Tom Kunkel, William Scheir, George Booth, Dale Hood
Agronomist – Gary Mayne
County Sanitarian – Butch Austin
Friends of the Platte River - Bob Donaldson, Bill Moore, Tammy Enz
Harry & Laura Nohr Trout Unlimited – David Fritz
Lancaster Ag Research Station – Tim Wood
Peoples State Bank – Tom Friar
Permitted Farms - Ron Abing, Darrell Crapp
Pheasants Forever – Greg Faber
Platteville Community Arboretum – Rand Atkinson
Wings Over Wisconsin – Steve Gehrke
Zoning Administer – Terry Loeffelholz

GRANT COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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ACRONYMS

BMP's	Best Management Practices
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
DATCP	Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
DNR	Department of Natural Resources (Wisconsin)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FPP	Farmland Preservation Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRP	Grassland Reserve Program
LWCC	Land & Water Conservation Committee
LWCD	Land & Water Conservation Department
LWRM	Land and Water Resource Management Plan
NPM	Nutrient and Pest Management
NPS	Non-Point Source Pollution
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development
SAPS	State Agricultural Performance Standards
SWRM	Soil and Water Resource Management Program
T	Tolerable Soil Loss
TRM	Targeted Runoff Management
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UWEX	University of Wisconsin-Extension
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

INTRODUCTION

LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN BACKGROUND

The need for local leadership in natural resources management is an important concept. This concept is endorsed by both federal and state government, including the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2008 Farm Bill, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Programs Manual, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Action Plan, Wisconsin Act 27 (the 1997-1999 Biennial Budget Bill), and Comprehensive Planning. Elected officials and policy makers have reaffirmed that local leadership and grassroots decision-making that involves a diverse team of interested groups and individuals are the keys to successfully managing and protecting our natural resources. Following this principle, Wisconsin's 72 County Land & Water Conservation Committees (LWCC) continue to lead their communities in determining local conservation needs and priorities.

Locally led conservation is based on the principle that local leaders are best suited to identify and resolve local natural resource problems. It challenges local, state and federal agency representatives and urban and rural neighbors to work together and take responsibility for addressing resource needs. Locally led conservation creates new opportunities, but also poses significant challenges to LWCC to take a more active role as conservation leaders in their communities.

Wisconsin Act 27 includes provisions for LWCC to develop county Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans. County LWRM plans are envisioned to be a local action or implementation plan with emphasis on program integration. The planning process will provide a more efficient and effective means to address resource issues, meet state standards, and more effectively leverage local, state, and federal resources.

Every citizen benefits from the protection and sustainable use of our natural resources. As standing committees to county boards, LWCC are the primary local delivery system of natural resource programs. County committees and departments are the public's vital link with local landowners to promote the implementation of conservation practices and achieve greater environmental stewardship of the land.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in its administrative code, NR 151, established agricultural and non-agricultural performance standards and prohibitions to reduce runoff and protect water quality. In ATCP 50, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) identified conservation practices that farmers shall follow to meet the DNR standards. These rule changes went into effect on October 1, 2002. ATCP 50 codified specific standards for the development, content and approval requirements of the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans.

LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN CONCEPT

The county LWRM plan concept was proposed in the fall of 1996 by conservation professionals, in response to draft state agency recommendations for redesigning Wisconsin's nonpoint pollution abatement programs. The concept was promoted by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association during state legislative deliberations in the spring and summer of 1997. With the added support of DATCP, the DNR, and the USDA/NRCS, the county LWRM plan concept became a central theme to landmark state legislation signed into law in October, 1997, as part of Wisconsin Act 27.

The county LWRM plans are not intended to be another "program." Rather, it is a "process" or strategic plan by which counties can assess their resource conditions and needs and decide how to best meet their goals. In other words, the county LWRM plans are an "umbrella" to integrate all available programs. Through the process of developing a LWRM plan, counties will be better poised to:

- Develop program integration
- Address the conditions of local land and water resources, referencing available monitoring data and applicable state and federal standards
- Review and incorporate existing plans, such as integrated basin plans and forestry management plans
- Identify local soil erosion and nonpoint pollution problems and priorities
- Develop a 5 year plan of activities for addressing those problems
- Partner with other agencies, municipalities, organizations, landowners, and other interested parties to achieve mutual conservation objectives
- Coordinate with local land use planning and zoning efforts
- Develop a comprehensive information and education strategy to help implement the plan
- Annually track progress toward meeting the plan's goals, including compliance with state standards
- Leverage local, state, federal and private resources

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF GRANT COUNTY

Grant County was formed in 1836, the same year Wisconsin became a territory. Lead strikes attracted the first settlers as early as 1825. When mining began to decline, the settlers turned to farming. The county remains largely agriculturally based today.

Fig. 1-1

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Grant County is in the southwestern corner of Wisconsin (Fig. 1-1). It is bounded on the north by the Wisconsin River, beyond which is Crawford and Richland Counties. On the east, it is bounded by Iowa and Lafayette Counties, and on the south, by Jo Davies County, IL. The Mississippi River, which separates the county from the state of Iowa, forms the western boundary.

The land area of Grant County is 1,168 square miles, or 747,520 acres. An additional 16 square miles, or 10,240 acres, consists of lakes, swamps, and other areas covered by water. This makes it the 10th largest county in the state. Lancaster, the county seat, is located near the center of the county. The county has approximately 2,490 farms with an average size of 243 acres. Nearly ¼ of the land on farms is woodland.

Fig. 1-2

Grant County is located in Major Land Resource Area 105 of the Driftless Area. (Fig 1-2) The Driftless Area is a unique region encompassing parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. Pleistocene glaciers bypassed the Driftless Area, giving rivers time to cut down into ancient bedrock and create distinctive landforms. Soils covering the steep slopes are fragile, ecosystems are diverse, and many cold-water streams are recognized for their economic, environmental and recreational importance. (www.driftlessareainitiative.org)

The county has two state parks within its borders; Wyalusing and Nelson Dewey State Park plus the Historic Stonefield Site in Cassville, all of which attract thousands of visitors annually.

Fig. 1-3 Commodity rankings in the State (2002 Ag Statistics)

Commodity	Ranking
*Hogs/Pigs	1
*Cattle/Calves	1
*Alfalfa/Hay	1
*Oats	1
*Forage	1
*Corn for Grain	3
*Milk Cow Herds	3

EXISTING LAND USE PROGRAMS

COUNTY ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS

Grant County has several land use programs to assist landowners in managing their conservation issues. These programs assist in cost sharing and technical advice in the following areas:

FARMLAND PRESERVATION
The Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) is designed to help preserve farmland through local planning and zoning, promote soil and water conservation and provide tax relief to participating landowners. Landowners qualify if their land is in an exclusively agricultural zoning district or if they sign an agreement to use their land exclusively for agricultural purposes.

Currently there are 273 private agreements of which 142 of those are located in zoned townships and 605 participants under exclusive agriculture zoning totaling 878 participants. Grant County has 33 townships, 16 of which are zoned exclusive agriculture. These townships are Millville, Watterstown, Hickory Grove, Mount Hope, Mount Ida, Jamestown, Platteville, Fennimore, Wingville, Clifton, Liberty, South Lancaster, Potosi, Paris, Lima and Ellenboro. (See Fig. 1-4)

For 2006, the average tax incentive generated was $577 per participant. With 784 participants claiming credits, a total of $452,191 was brought back into Grant County as property tax relief.

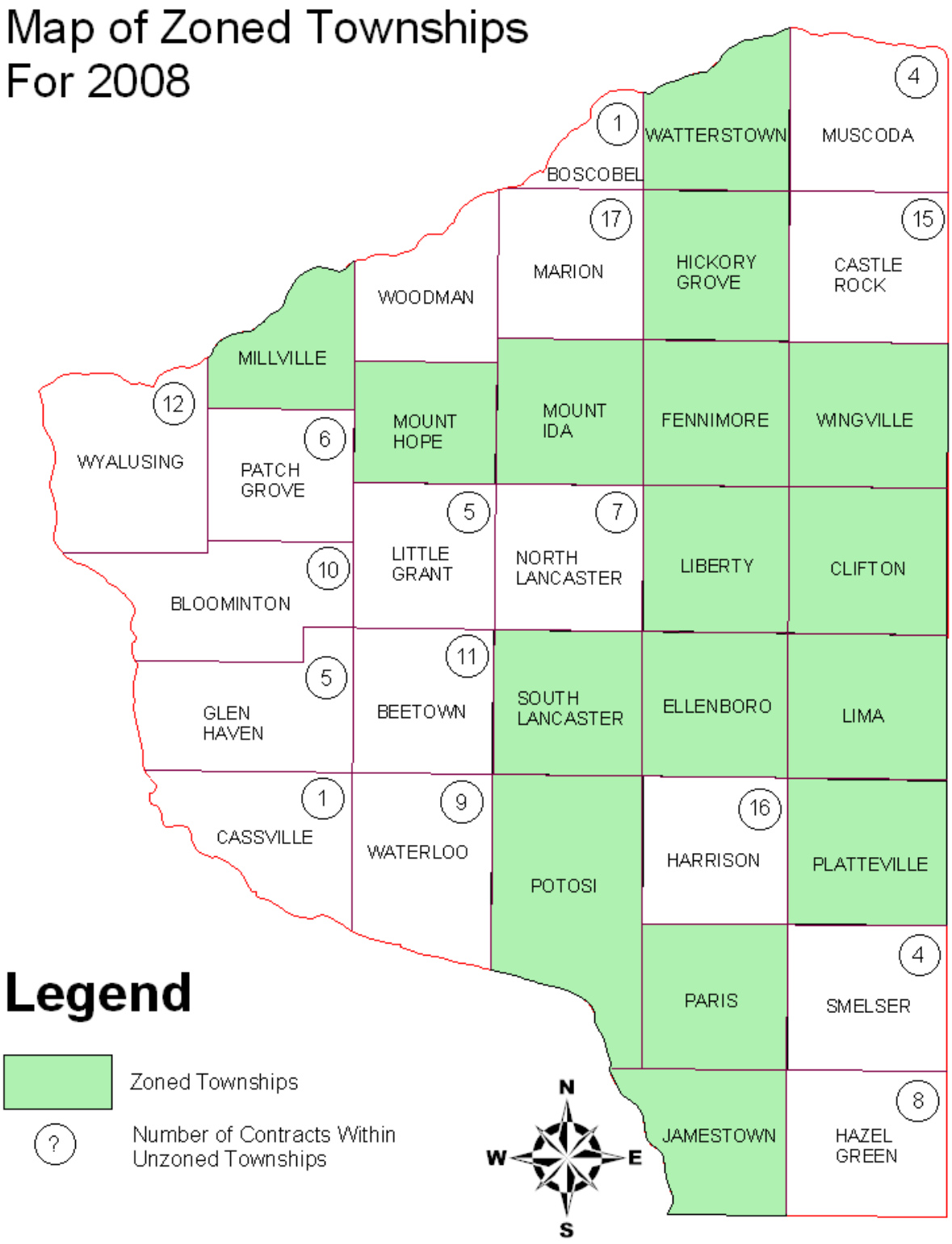
In 2004 the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) was updated to incorporate the Statewide Performance Standards into its compliance requirements. The Statewide Agricultural Performance Standards (SAPS) are a group of rules passed by the State Legislature in 2002 to protect and preserve the water quality of Wisconsin. According to these rules anyone who grows agricultural crops or raises livestock must meet the following:

- Meet tolerable "T" soil loss
- Prevent direct runoff into streams & rivers
- Prevent overtopping of waste storage
- Build storage according to standards
- Stack manure away from sensitive areas
- Develop and follow a Nutrient Mgt Plan
- Maintain grass along streams and rivers
- Repair leaking storage facilities
- Close storage according to standards
- Divert clean water around contaminants

To make the transition into compliance for the FPP participants as painless as possible, we will work with them to obtain compliance over the next 10 years. Our staff will do an assessment of the property to see which areas need to be addressed, and then set up a plan to achieve compliance. After the plan is developed landowners will be given the opportunity to apply for cost sharing and technical services provided by our office to meet that goal.

Required spot checks every 6 years will continue as usual, however, the actual SAPS assessment will be broken down over ten years. Working with NRCS, we have four teams made up of soil conservationist/technicians. Each team will be goaled 22 assessments a year; this will be 88 assessments for the office per year. With 878 current participants, all FPP participants will be assessed in ten years. Landowners chosen for assessment will be based on the current spot check cycle.

Figure 1-4


Map of Zoned Townships
For 2008
1
BOSCOBEL
WATTERSTOWN
4
MUSCODA
17
MARION
HICKORY GROVE
15
CASTLE ROCK
WOODMAN
MILLVILLE
12
WYALUSING
6
PATCH GROVE
MOUNT HOPE
MOUNT IDA
FENNIMORE
WINGVILLE
5
LITTLE GRANT
7
NORTH LANCASTER
LIBERTY
CLIFTON
10
BLOOMINTON
11
BEETOWN
SOUTH LANCASTER
ELLENBORO
LIMA
5
GLEN HAVEN
1
CASSVILLE
9
WATERLOO
POTOSI
16
HARRISON
PLATTEVILLE
4
SMELSER
PARIS
JAMESTOWN
8
HAZEL GREEN
Legend
Zoned Townships
?
Number of Contracts Within Unzoned Townships
N
W
E
S

COUNTY COST SHARE PROGRAM

The County Board approves $20,000 each year for county cost sharing. Forestry practices take $3,500 of that allotment to cost share on fencing and tree protectors. The remainder is available to cost share on all conservation practices included in the NRCS Technical Guide. Due to the small amount of cost share available, the LWCC has set a 75% up to $3500 limit on practices. One way to offset the high cost of installation is to piggyback the money with other cost sharing programs. The other method is to cost share on low cost, stand alone practices, such as well abandonment, crop management practices, grassed waterways and special practices (see Fig. 1-5). The LWCC has set high, medium and low priority on each practice and reevaluates this list periodically. The priorities are then used to assist NRCS on setting priorities in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. (EQIP).

SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM

Each year DATCP allocates a certain amount of funds to provide cost sharing in Grant County. Since the dollar amount of the grant is relatively small in comparison to the amount of cost share requests, the LWCC has set a limit of 70% cost sharing up to $10,000 for manure storage and $7500 for all other practices. If the estimated cost is over $10,000, the individual may request additional funds from the previously mentioned County Cost Share Program. Cost sharing is available for a variety of the traditional conservation practices used in Grant County (see Fig. 1-5).

TARGETED RUNOFF MANAGEMENT GRANTS

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants are provided to control polluted runoff from both urban and rural sites. The grants are targeted at high-priority resource problems. Projects funded by TRM grants are site-specific and serve areas generally smaller in size than a subwatershed. The grant period is 2 years, with a possible 1-year extension. The maximum cost-share rate available to TRM grant recipients is 70 percent of eligible costs, with the total of state funding not to exceed $150,000.

Working with DNR, we will prioritize our applications to sites that already have approved Total Maximum Daily Load's (TMDLs) set for the watershed. For Grant County, these would include Martin, Martinville, Roger's Branch, Gunderson Valley and Fennimore Fork. See Figure 1-9. When working with a TRM grant, emphasis will be given to any FPP participants in that watershed, to ensure they are in compliance with the SAPS.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an enhancement of the USDA/FSA/NRCS Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This is a continuous sign up for high priority conservation practices. The participant receives annual rental payments based on the agricultural rental value of the land and receives cost share assistance in an amount equal to not more than 50% of the cost in establishing the approved practice. The contract duration is either 10 or 15 years or the landowner could opt for a perpetual easement. The establishment of buffers along the watercourse reduces the phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment entering our streams and rivers.

Grant County was given $1,850,000 to allocate in the CREP program. Since Jan, 2008 we have signed 152 contracts equaling $570,000 in payments. This will amount to 2153 acres of cropland and pasture set aside in CREP.

FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS

By working closely with USDA-NRCS-FSA, Grant County LWCD is able to assist landowners with a wider range of land use programs. Our office integrates the federally funded programs into our workload to help the landowner get the greater benefit out of the cost sharing available.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participant's to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land (see Fig. 1-5). In 2007, 49 landowners were approved for cost sharing of $635,420. The EQIP Local Workgroup works closely with the LWCC by synchronizing priorities in all programs.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, you can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. The Commodity Credit Corporation makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 or 15 years.

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program to help protect valuable grass and hay lands, which are threatened by development or from conversion to more intensive cropping systems which can cause serious soil erosion. Landowners may sign up for 10, 15, 20 or 30-year contracts. USDA pays 75 percent of the grazing value in annual payments for the length of the agreement.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

WHIP has proven to be a highly effective and widely accepted program across the country. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on all lands and aquatic areas, WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners that are unable to meet the specific eligibility requirements of other USDA conservation programs. Currently, Grant County has 5 contracts in various stages of development.

WI DNR FORESTRY BASED PROGRAMS

By working closely with the WI DNR Forester in Grant County, we are able to offer programs to our landowners in an area where our office does not have the expertise. The following programs offer cost sharing and incentives while promoting conservation.

FOREST TAX LAWS

Three hundred forty seven woodland owners in the county have agreements on 21,071 acres of forest with the State of Wisconsin under the Managed Forest Law or the Forest Crop Law. 575 new acres were enrolled in 2008. Agreements range from 25 to 50 years. The average size of an agreement is 60 acres. Landowners agree to follow a forest management plan, which addresses watershed and soil erosion issues wherever applicable. The Managed Forest Law's Forest Stewardship Plans can include mandatory installation of soil erosion control practices. Agreements under at least one of these tax laws are found in all townships of Grant County.

WISCONSIN FOREST LANDOWNER GRANT PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program is a program designed to assist private landowners in protecting and enhancing their forested lands, prairies and waters. The program allows qualified landowners to be reimbursed up to 50 % of the cost of eligible practices. Qualifying landowners must have less than 500 acres of forestland in Wisconsin and a Forest Stewardship Plan covering the acres where they plan to install the practices.

Practices include preparation of a Forest Stewardship Plan, tree planting, forest improvement, soil and water protection, wetland protection, restoration and enhancement, stream bank protection, wildlife habitat creation or improvement and protection of rare natural communities and species. Sign-up for the program is on a continual basis. In 2008**,** 17 grants were funded with $ 33,604**.** 8 applications for $ 11,588 are pending funding in August**.**

Fig 1-5

Tech Guide Practice Code	Practice	County Cost Share Rates (1)	County Priority	SWRM Grant (4,6)	EQIP (5)
560	Access Road	75%	L	70%	FR*/FT
575	Animal Trails and Walkways		L	70%	FR/FT
360	Closure of Waste Impoundment		M	70%	FR/CU FT
585B	Contour Buffer Strips	$10/acre	H		$10/acre
330	Contour Farming	$9/acre	H		$9/acre
585	Contour Stripcropping	$9/acre	H		$13.50/acre
340	Cover Crop/Green Manure	75%	M		$18.50/acre
342	Critical Area Planting		H	70%	FR/AC
362	Diversion	75%	M	70%	FR/FT
382	Fencing/Exclusion		L	70%	FR/FT
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	75%	H	70%	FR
412	Grassed Waterways	75%	M	70%	FR/FT
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	75%	M	70%	FR/SQ FT
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet		M		FR/FT
313	Manure Storage	75%	H	70%	FR/AU/DAY
590	Nutrient Management		M	$28 / acre / 4 yrs	$8-3 yrs/acre
595	Pest Management-Field Crops				$5-3 yrs/acre
516	Pipeline		L		FR/FT
528A	Prescribed Grazing-Cropland				$7-3 yrs/acre
329A	Residue Management No-Till-50 AC		M		$15-3 yrs/acre
558	Roof Runoff Management		M	70%	FR/FT
	Sediment Basin-Barnyard	75%	H	70%	FR
350	Sediment Basin-Nonbarnyard				FR
527	Sinkhole Treatment			70%	FR
574	Spring Development		L		$1650/EA
313	Stacking Pad		H	70%	FR/AU/DAY
578	Stream Crossing	75%	L	70%	FR/FT
580	Streambank Stabilization	75%	H	70%	FR/FT
600	Terraces	75%	M	70%	FR/FT
620	Underground Outlet		L	70%	FR/FT
472	Use Exclusion				$10/acre
635	Waste Water Treatment Strip		H	70%	FR
614	Watering Facility Trough/Tank		L	70%	FR
642	Well				$20/FT
642	Well Abandonment	50% (3)	H	70%	FR

(1) Payment not to exceed $3500
(2) 75% of seed bill up to $1000
(3) Payment not to exceed $500
(4) Payment not to exceed $10,000 for manure storage, $7500 all other practices
(5) Payments not to exceed limits stated in NRCS EQIP Manual
(6) Any SWRM funded practice over $10,000 will be eligible to piggy back county cost share funds bringing the maximum cost sharing rate to 75% depending on availability of funds
*FR=Flat Rate per unit indicated

ASSESMENT OF SOIL EROSION AND WATER QUALITY IN GRANT COUNTY

CROPLAND SOIL EROSION

Soil erosion has ranked as the highest resource concern for the residents of Grant County. Much of the land in Grant County has already experienced significant erosion. Some of the soils are shallow to bedrock and cannot be farmed sustainably without attention to soil management. Based on estimates provided by the Grant County Erosion Control Plan (1986), cropland erosion was proceeding at a rate of twice the tolerable amount. With historical evidence such as this, it is easy to see why soil erosion has continually ranked high as a resource concern over the years.

On a positive note, all this attention may finally be making a difference. In the spring of 1999, Grant County started conducting an annual countywide Transect Survey. The route was designed to transverse each township twice while collecting data at .5 mile intervals (see Fig.1-5). The procedure is said to yield a 90% accuracy level ($\pm$ 5%) on all data obtained from the survey. This data includes present and previous crop, tillage system and crop residue levels. (Hill, 1992) By conducting this survey we are able to benchmark cropping practices and see there effect on the environment.

The survey has been going on now for 9 years and we are just starting to see trends occurring around the county. The types of crops grown in Grant County have stayed about the same over the past 9 years; however there does seem to be a pattern of decreasing forage crops. We are losing about 2000 acres of forage crops a year. Even though forage acres are decreasing, erosion is not necessarily increasing. The percentage of fields at or below tolerable "T" soil loss has increased 3% from 1999 from 76% to 79%. This trend can probably be attributed to the increase in the use of No-till. The use of this practice has increased 21% to 35% countywide, while conventional tillage has decreased by 28%. This trend can also be seen by the increase in residue found on the fields. In 1999 14% of the fields had more that 50% residue left after planting, compared to an increase of 32% in 2007.

Even though the numbers are increasing, they are still lower than we would like. As I write this plan southwest Wisconsin is being inundated with severe thunderstorms daily. The effects of these storms are making it quite apparent that we still have a lot of work to do. However, the increase in no-till practice being utilized shows that management practices are changing for the good.

Challenges that lay ahead that were not present in 1999, is the increased interest in biofuels and the conservation challenges that goes with them. While investing in green energy is a good idea, we need to be careful not to lose sight of its effect on the environment. We are already seeing an increase in sod busting for the intent of growing corn or soybeans, and there is much interest in harvesting the residue left after harvest for biofuels as well. An increase in row crops and a decrease of residue left behind is not a trend we wish to get started. By getting in on the ground floor discussions, we are hoping to combine good conservation practices and still allow biofuels to flourish.

Fig 1-6

2003 MAP OF COUNTY TRANSECT SURVEY ROUTE

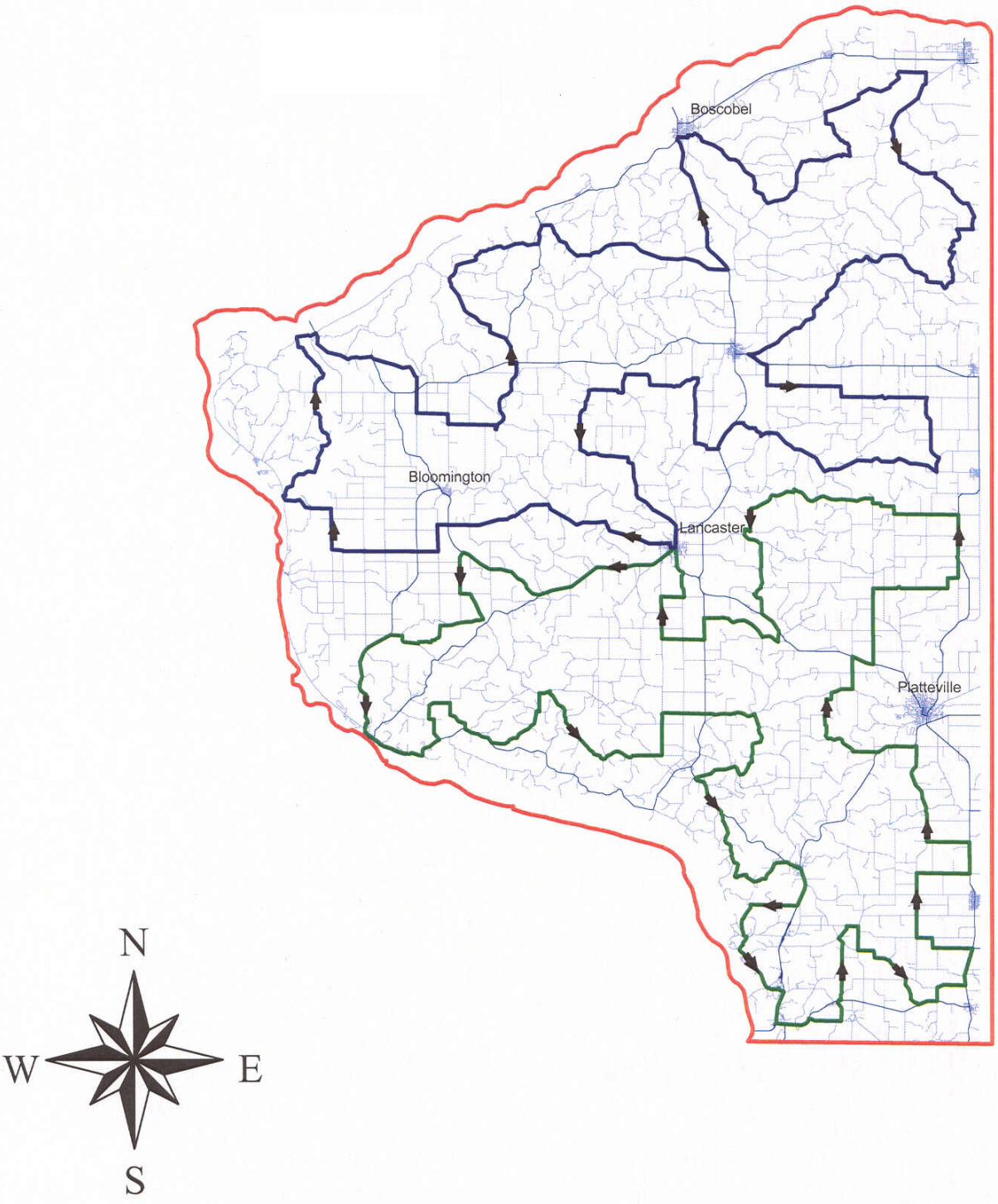
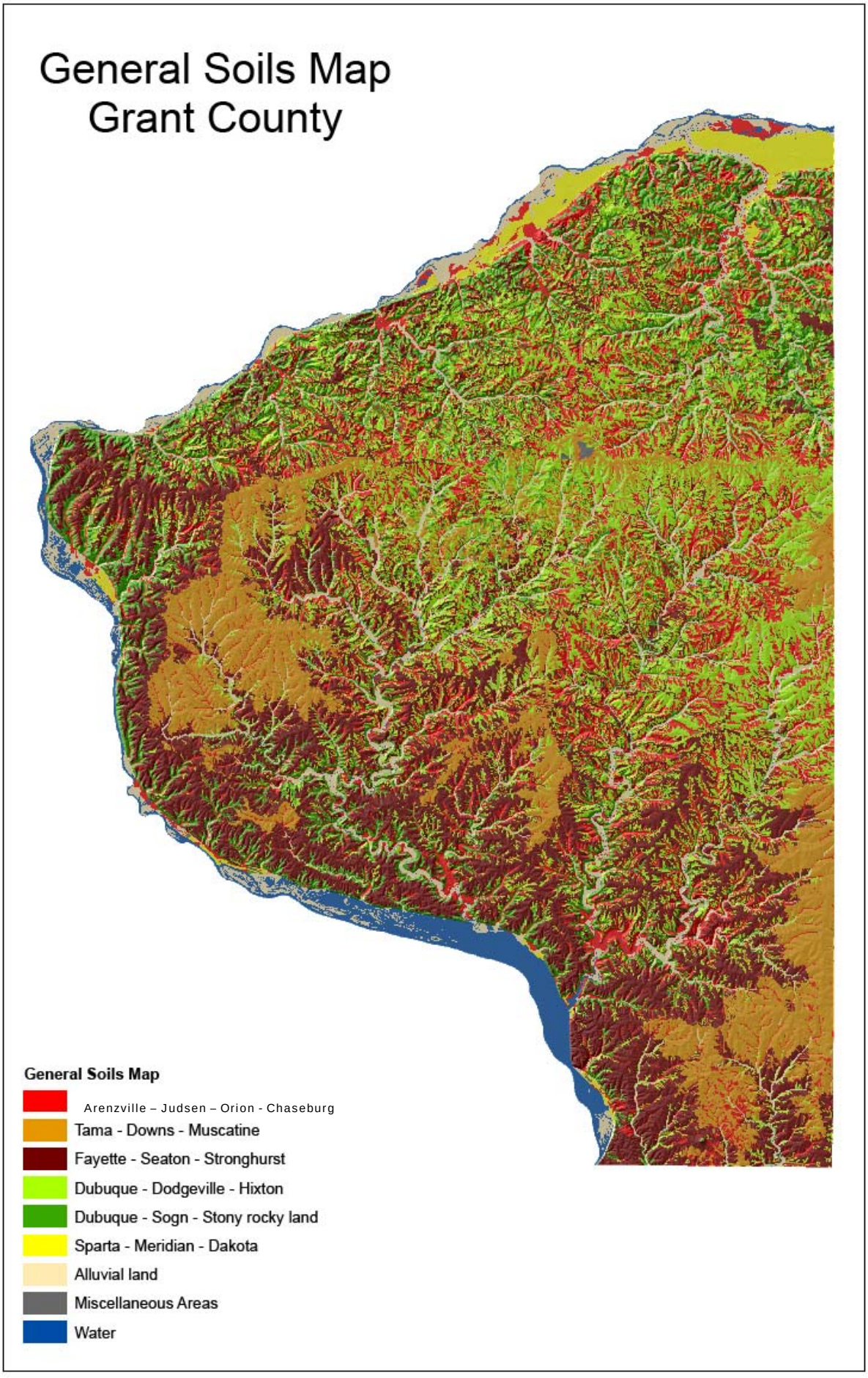


Fig 1-7


General Soils Map
Grant County
General Soils Map
Arenzville – Judsen – Orion - Chaseburg
Tama - Downs - Muscatine
Fayette - Seaton - Stronghurst
Dubuque - Dodgeville - Hixton
Dubuque - Sogn - Stony rocky land
Sparta - Meridian - Dakota
Alluvial land
Miscellaneous Areas
Water

GROUND WATER QUALITY

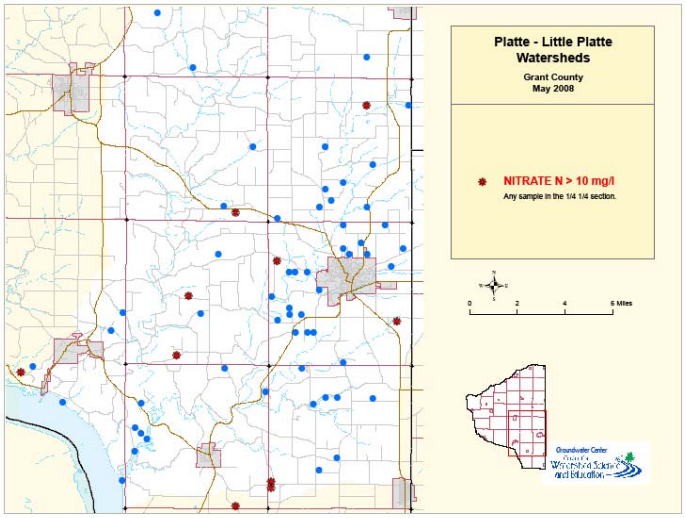
Water quality is the second highest resource concern for the residents of Grant County. The sandstone aquifer that lies under Grant County is susceptible to ground water contamination. The water is generally quite hard, although the dissolved solids, chlorides and sulfate levels were below the state's drinking water standards. Iron concentrations can be an aesthetic problem in this aquifer.

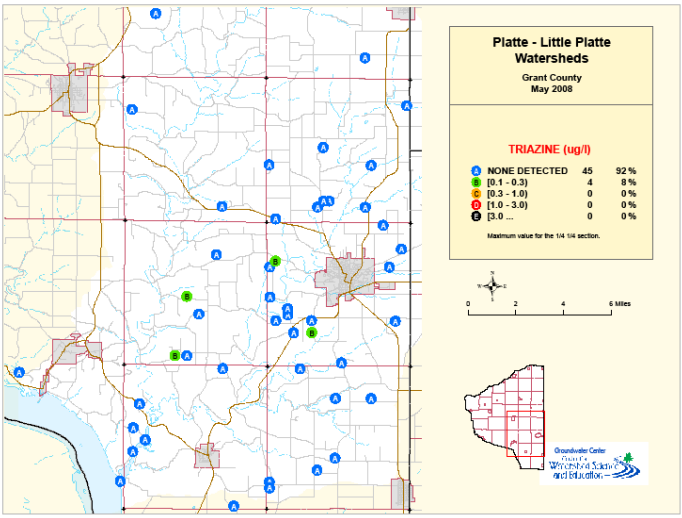
In 2008, the Friends of the Platte River along with the Southwest Badger RC & D sponsored a voluntary well testing program for residents in the Platte River Watershed. The data shown in Fig. 1-8 indicates that nitrates were found in the ground water, however, levels above 10 mg made up only 14% of the samples and Triazine (Atrazine) was only found in 8%. For more information on the well testing program, go to http://www.swbadger.com/PlatteRiver.html.

Since 2004, Grant County has provided cost sharing to properly abandon 90 private wells. Wells however, are not the only link to ground water. Mineral test holes, mine shafts and karst related sinkholes are also a contributor to groundwater contamination.

Currently the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) Office conducts water testing at the annual Grant County Fair.

Fig . 1-8: Platte River Well Monitoring Results (2008)

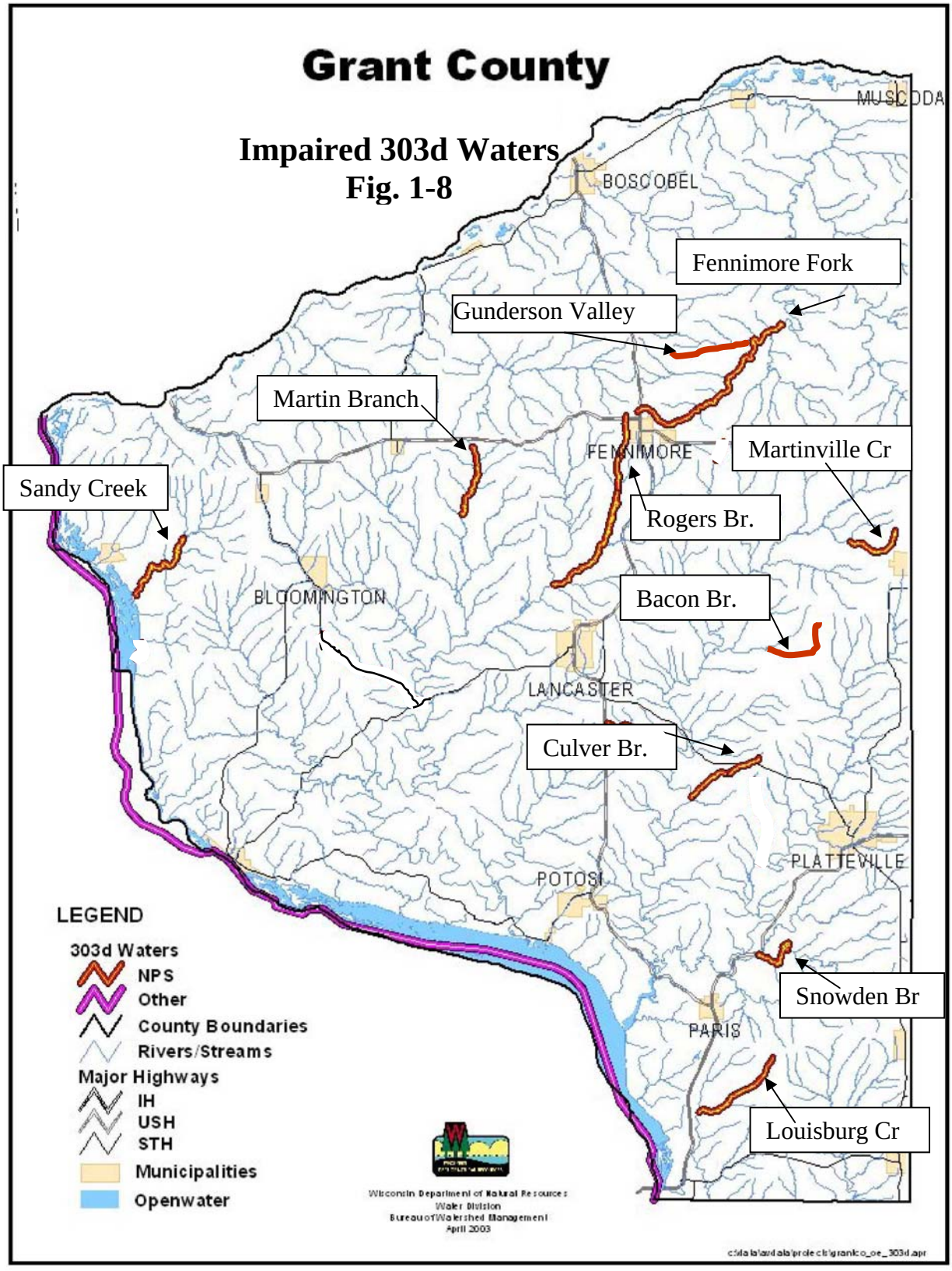


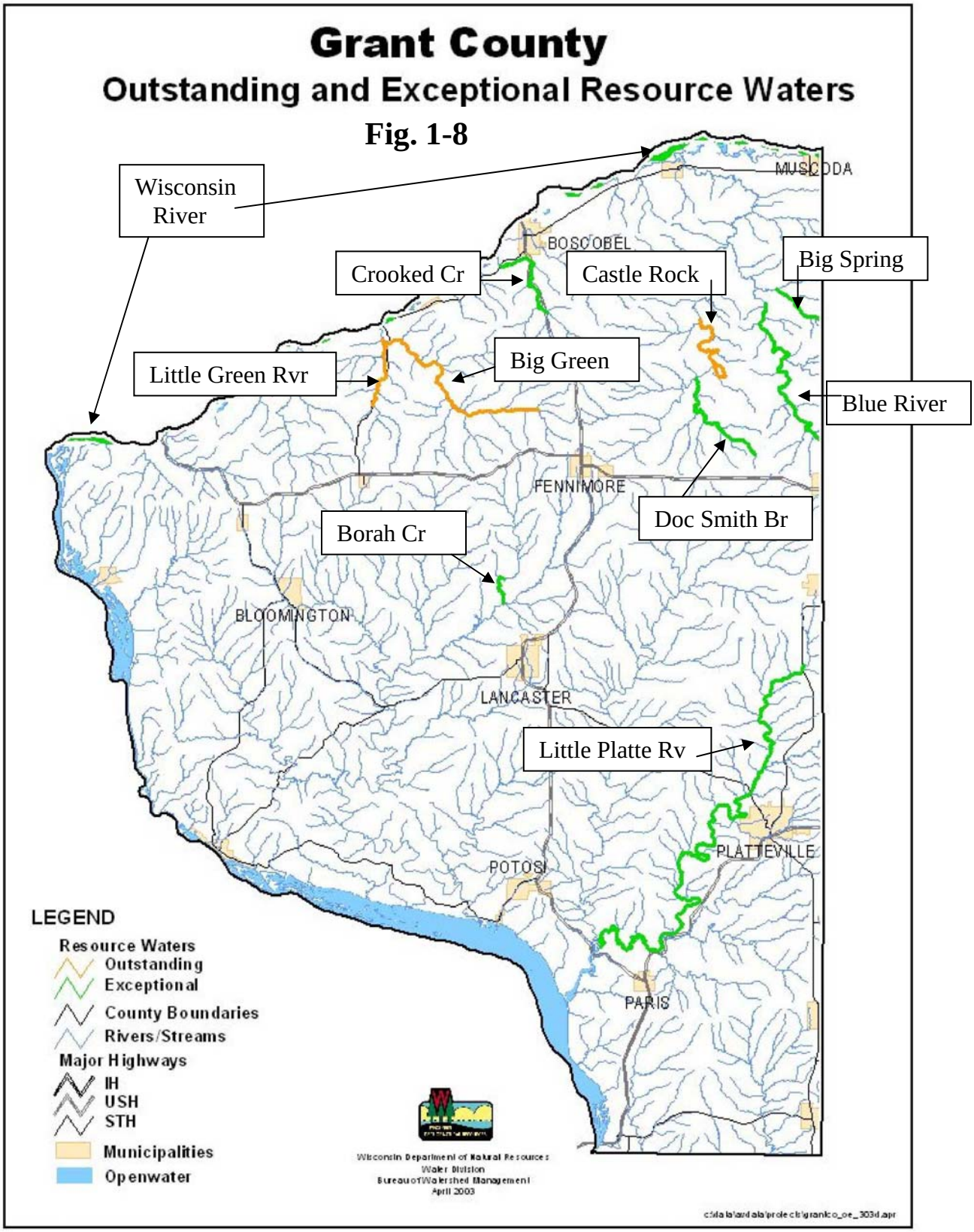


SURFACE WATER QUALITY

Non point pollution sources are responsible for the degraded conditions of the streams in Grant County. Excessive amounts of sediments, nutrients and bacteria degrade the water quality, causing an unbalanced fish community with depressed populations and limited diversity. Furthermore, sediment from the watersheds settling out in the Wisconsin and Mississippi River backwaters are causing the pools to fill in. The two most serious pollutants are sediment and phosphorous. For watershed specifics and recommendations we referenced "The State of the Lower Wisconsin River Basin" and the "The State of the Grant, Platte, & Galena River Basins". These reports can be found at the Grant County Land and Water Conservation Department, 150 W Alona Ln, Lancaster, WI 53813 or on the DNR website at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/gmu/stateofbasin.html.

Several streams located within the county have been listed on the WDNR's 303(d) list. This is a list of waters not currently meeting state water quality standards (See Fig. 1-9). The WDNR also has a list of streams that they would like to prevent from becoming contaminated. These streams are considered Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters (see Fig. 1-10).


Grant County
Impaired 303d Waters
Fig. 1-8
MUSCODA
BOSCOBEL
Fennimore Fork
Gunderson Valley
Martin Branch
FENNIMORE
Martinville Cr
Sandy Creek
Rogers Br.
BLOOMINGTON
Bacon Br.
LANCASTER
Culver Br.
PLATTEVILLE
POTOSI
Snowden Br
PARIS
Louisburg Cr
LEGEND
303d Waters
NPS
Other
County Boundaries
Rivers/Streams
Major Highways
IH
USH
STH
Municipalities
Openwater
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Water Division
Bureau of Watershed Management
April 2003


Grant County
Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters
Fig. 1-8
Wisconsin River
Crooked Cr
Castle Rock
Big Spring
Little Green Rvr
Big Green
Blue River
Doc Smith Br
Borah Cr
MUSCODA
BOSCOBEL
FENNIMORE
BLOOMINGTON
LANCASTER
Little Platte Rv
PLATTEVILLE
POTOSI
PARIS
LEGEND
Resource Waters
Outstanding
Exceptional
County Boundaries
Rivers/Streams
Major Highways
IH
USH
STH
Municipalities
Openwater
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Water Division
Bureau of Watershed Management
April 2003

CHAPTER 2

THE PLANNING PROCESS

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008, the Grant County Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) invited county residents to identify and prioritize their resource concerns for Grant County (see Appendix A). The agenda allowed for a discussion on what a Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) is, prioritizing resource concerns and an in depth discussion on the statewide agricultural performance standards (SAPS)

The local advisory committee (LAC) was a compilation of various members from the Grant County community, 54 in all. Members of the agricultural community were first on the list; both small and permitted facilities were invited to participate. Members of various conservation partner agencies were asked to sit in, which included: Friends of the Platte River, Friends of the Rountree Branch, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Wings over Wisconsin. Agency personnel included LWCC/LWCD, NRCS, DATCP, DNR, UWEX, FSA and RC& D representatives. The actual LAC had a good distribution of farmers, businessmen, agency personnel and concerned citizens on board.

Twenty eight people attended the first meeting. At that meeting, the LAC was given a survey to fill out and return by the second meeting. The survey assessed resource concerns, priority areas and prioritizing the SAPS. The survey was also sent out to those who could not attend the first meeting. 30 surveys were returned and tallied to obtain our results. (See Appendix A)

Soil erosion was the number one resource concern. Ground & surface water quality came in second and third respectively. This opinion could also be seen clearly when looking at how the performance standards ranked. Meeting tolerable "T" soil loss was number one, followed by no direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into waters of the state. These two issues will receive the bulk of the attention in our LWRMP.

At the April 16, 2008 LAC meeting, the survey results were reviewed and discussed. The 2004 LWRM work plan was reevaluated according to the new results and objectives were arranged accordingly. The LAC went through each resource concern and added objectives and actions where needed.

One of the new resource concerns that have emerged in this plan is renewable energy and its effect on the environment. The LAC wanted to make sure that soil erosion practices were maintained with the increase interest in biofuel production. They also wanted to support the advancement of biofuels, but only in a sustainable environment.

The workgroup discussed how involved they wanted Grant County to be in the administration of the statewide agricultural performance standards. They agreed that the County should continue to encourage the voluntary aspect of compliance. However, since agricultural land use was the number one priority area, they did feel that emphasis should be placed on bringing the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) participants into compliance.

Currently there are 878 FPP participants. Knowing that an immediate requirement of all FPP participants to meet the SAPS, would mean and end to the program we set out to develop a strategy to bring the participants into compliance over the next 10 years. Even at that rate, it would mean an average of 88 people a year addressing all aspects of the SAPS on their properties.

EVALUATION

To evaluate the success of the LWRM plan, we will use an assortment of tools. Since soil erosion is the number one concern, we plan to monitor closely the amount of practices cost shared addressing this concern. When developing ranking criteria for cost sharing, those addressing soil erosion will be high priority. To be eligible for cost sharing, the contributing acres must meet "T". We will continue to execute the Transect Survey and assess our progress that way as well. Compliance spot checks will be utilized to keep landowners on track.

To address water quality issues, we plan to track the number wells decommissioned, number of animal waste permits issued, and number of nutrient management acres. We also hope to train student interns to monitor and evaluate our soil erosion projects effect on surface water quality. We also hope to develop a county wide well testing program to get a better feel for the groundwater quality countywide. The most important evaluation tool we will be utilizing will be public comments and feedback. The citizens of Grant County are always willing to let us know what kind of job they think we are doing.

On the statewide agricultural performance standards (SAPS), we will also be tracking all those in compliance or progress towards compliance. This will mainly focus on the FPP, but will also catch those applying for cost sharing for waste storage and nutrient management.

The following pages outline the resource concerns, objectives and actions the LWCC plans to address within the next ten years. The resource concerns are presented in order of priority, set by the workgroup, with the first concern being the highest. Beneath each concern, the objectives are again ranked according to priority. The particular state agricultural performance standards that are addressed by the concerns are noted in the action column.

	Resource Concern #1: Soil Erosion								
RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	To control soil erosion in Grant County	Promote and assist landowner participation in local, state and federal conservation programs. i.e., FPP, CREP, CRP, EQIP, MFL, Co. & SWRM Cost Sharing.	LWCD, NRCS, FSA, DNR-F	2009-2013	4160	$ 104,000	$ 15,200	$ 500,000	10 Grade Stab. installed, 5,000 acres of conservation plans to "T", 40 acres of land in CREP
M		Work with NRCS and FSA to ensure conservation plan compliance.	LWCD, NRCS, FSA	2009-2013	1232	$ 30,800	$ 300		100 compliance checks done in a year
H		Promote the Farmland Preservation Program & requirements of the statewide agricultural performance standards.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	3300	$ 82,500	$ 15,000	$ 300,000	88 FPP participants in compliance w/ SAPS
H		Complete Annual Transect Survey & evaluate data compared with prior surveys	LWCD	2009-2013	160	$ 4,000	$ 250		Report generated from survey
H		Provide an annual list of county cost shared practices to landowners via "Countryside Clinic" article in local newspapers.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	10	$ 250			Countryside Clinic article
H	To control sheet and rill erosion	Require landowners receiving cost sharing to meet tolerable "T" soil loss on contributing watershed. (NR 151.02)	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Soil Erosion				Transect Survey
M		Provide landowners with land coming out of CRP with educational materials regarding prevention of soil loss.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	18	$ 450	$ 100		Informational handout
L		Work with UWEX to determine the benefits new agronomic technology on soil erosion. (i.e.: zone/strip till)	LWCD, UWEX	2010	40	$ 1,000			Results from the study
H	To control gully erosion	Promote implementation of grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures through county state and federal cost share programs.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Soil Erosion				# of practices installed,

	Resource Concern #1: Soil Erosion Continued								
RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
M		Educate landowners on the proper siting of crop field access roads	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Soil Erosion				Landowner feedback
M		Support partners (TU, PF, RC&D, citizen groups) installing habitat & conservation work	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	250	$ 6,250	$ 100		1 project
L	To control erosion caused by logging practices	Work with local DNR forester to provide information and education on proper logging practices. (ie: Light on the Land workshops)	LWCD, NRCS, DNR-F		9	$ 225			2 workshops
L	To control construction site erosion	Work with UWEX & DNR to develop educational materials for local building inspectors.	LWCD, DNR, UWEX		9	$ 225	$ 100		Educational materials

	Resource Concern #2: Groundwater Quality								
RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	To prevent contaminants from entering the groundwater of Grant County	Promote well decommissioning through county, state and federal cost sharing programs and update program as necessary.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	18	$ 450	$ 100	$ 10,000	30 well decommissions
H		Inform local well drillers and pump installers of current standards in respect to well decommissioning through informational letters	LWCD	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 100		Annual letter
H		Administer the Animal Waste and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance (NR 151.05, 151.07)	LWCD	2009-2013	700	$ 17,500	$ 1,000		10 permits issued
H		Inform manure storage applicants of NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, erosion and sediment control plan.	LWCD	2009-2013	10	$ 250	$ 50		
H		Support partners (i.e., SW Badger RC& D, Friends of Platte River, UWEX, Discovery Farms), with well testing program.	LWCD	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 100		Well testing results
M		Conduct I & E program in local schools with the Groundwater Model, exhibiting the effect we have on the groundwater.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 100		Feed back from schools
H		Distribute information on proper decommissioning techniques of wells and sinkholes to landowners, well drillers and pump installers.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 100		Amount of information requested
M		Develop information advising landowners not to stack manure in rock quarries. (NR 151.08(3))	LWCD	2009	18	$ 450			Decrease of manure in quarries
M		Look into updating the Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance.	LWCD	2010	160	$ 4,000	$ 500		Updated AWS& NU Ordinance
L		Conduct a countywide survey of existing animal waste storage facilities.	LWCD	2012	2080	$ 52,000	$ 5,000		# of waste storage facilities in county

Resource Concern #3: Surface Water Quality

RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	To prevent contaminants from entering the surface waters of Grant County	Administer the Animal Waste and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance (NR 151.05, 151.07)	LWCD	2009-2013	Included in Groundwater Quality				
M		Encourage all landowners spreading animal waste on crop fields to develop and follow a nutrient management plan. (NR 151.07)	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Info/Ed				
M		Work with partners (UWEX, local agronomists) to develop and promote a DATCP approved farmer written nutrient management training course. (151.07)	LWCD, NRCS, UWEX	2009	40	$ 1,000	$ 100		Development of program, # of farmer written plans
		Work with DNR to apply for TRM grants in watersheds with TMDL's already developed	LWCD, DNR	2009-2013	2080	$ 52,000	$ 5,000	$ 600,000	Receive TRM grant for Martin, Martinville, Rogers Branch, and Gunderson Valley Watersheds
H		Work with local newspapers and radio stations to alert producers to high risk periods for manure runoff.	LWCD, UWEX	2009-2013	9	$ 225			Occurrences of manure in streams during runoff events
H		Promote participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)	LWCD, FSA, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Soil Erosion				
H		Promote implementation of clean water diversions around feedlots, manure storage, and barnyards. (NR 151.06, 151.08(4))	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Info/Ed				
L		Promote development of maps to facilitate winter manure spreading.	LWCD, NRCS	2009	9	$ 225			Development of winter spreading maps
M		Work with DNR to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for implementing NR 151.	LWCD, DNR	2009	80	$ 2,000			Development of Memorandum of Understanding
L		Work with partners (UWEX, DNR) to develop a program for emergency manure spill training	LWCD, NRCS, UWEX, DNR	2010	10	$ 250			Development of emergency manure spill training program

	Resource Concern #4: Animal Management								
RANK	**Objectives**	**Actions**	**WHO**	**WHEN**	**ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS**	**ESTIMATED COST / STAFF**	**ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST**	**ESTIMATED COST SHARE**	**PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS**
H	Ensure population/resource balance for domestic animals	Require all animal feeding operations installing a waste storage facility to have a Nutrient Management Plan showing they have the acres to spread the amount of manure they intend to store. (NR 151.07)	LWCD	2009-2013	Included in Groundwater Quality				
M		Inform the public of the availability of cost sharing for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Info/Ed				
M		Promote prescribed grazing.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Info/Ed				
M	Prevent direct runoff from feedlots, manure storage and barnyards	Promote implementation of the Manure Management Prohibitions (NR 151.08)	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	500	$ 12,500	$ 1,000		# of farms brought into compliance
L	Avoid putting money into bad locations	Promote relocation of sites that are "between and rock and a hard place".	LWCD		40	$ 1,000	$ 100		# of relocations

Resource Concern #5: Information and Education

RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	Inform the public and keep them up to date on conservation and water quality issues and programs	Write a monthly article called "Country Side Clinic" and provide to all county newspapers and radio stations. (17,700 subscriptions)	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	48	$ 1,200	$ 150		12 Countryside Clinic articles
H		Publish an annual report showcasing the accomplishments of the conservation partners in Grant County. Provide to all county newspapers, (18,400 subscriptions), WI LWCD/NRCS offices and state agencies.	LWCD, NRCS, DNR, UWEX, RC&D, FSA, WDAP, AG RES	2009-2013	100	$ 2,500	$ 4,000		Production and reception of Annual report
H		Exhibit fair display at Grant County Fair	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	60	$ 1,500	$ 300		Reception of fair display by attendees
M		Develop LWCD website to disseminate information via the internet	LWCD, NRCS	2009	200	$ 5,000	$ 200		Development and use of Website
H	Increase knowledge of local educators and our involvement in local schools	Increase our presence in area schools by sending letter informing them of our services and interest in helping them develop conservation curriculum.	LWCD, NRCS	2009	24	$ 600	$ 100		Letter to schools
H		Promote and participate in the Upper Mississippi River Festival.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	24	$ 600	$ 50		Participation by local schools in the UMRF
H		Support county, area and state soil judging events.	LWCD	2009-2013	24	$ 600	$ 150		Participation in soil judging contests
H		Sponsor scholarship for local educators to attend "Trees for Tomorrow" education camp.	LWCD	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 250		1 scholarship awarded
H		Sponsor scholarship for local students to attend "Conservation Camp".	LWCD	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 200		2 scholarships awarded
M		Distribute trees and literature to area schools for arbor day	LWCD	2009-2013	18	$ 450	$ 200		20 schools receiving supplies

	Resource Concern #5: Information and Education Continued								
RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
M		Provide tours of local conservation practices to students of UW Platteville.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	18	$ 450	$ 100		1 tour
M		Distribute Soil Stewardship material to local churches	LWCD	2009-2013	18	$ 450	$ 100		20 churches receiving supplies
H	Promote continuing education for staff	Each staff member will attend a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education/training per year.	LWCD	2009-2013	200	$ 5,000	$ 300		200 training hours achieved
H		Promote joint management team meetings between partner agencies	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 200		Development of joint management team meeting
M		Promote educational tours on current conservation issues	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 300		5 educational tours provided
M	Show legislators the need for continuation of conservation programs	Write letters to WI state and federal legislators, keeping them up to date on programs needed for continued financial and legislative assistance.	LWCD	2009-2013	18	$ 450	$ 50		4 letters to legislators
M		Support Conservation Organizations and their actions with the conservation and legislative community in WI. (I.e.: SAA, WLWCA, NACD)	LWCD	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 2,500		15 organizations supported
L	Promote the establishment of a GIS specialist position in Grant County	Develop GIS layers to map existing wells, existing animal waste storage facilities, compliance with the statewide agricultural performance standards.	LWCD, NRCS		2080	$ 52,000	$ 5,000		Development of GIS position

Resource Concern #6: Renewable Energy

RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	Maintain soil erosion practices with the increase interest in Ethanol	Require all landowners to meet tolerable soil loss on their tillable acres. (NR 151.02)	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Soil Erosion				
M		Promote research on switch grass sustainability in Grant County	LWCD, RC&D	2009	20	$ 500			Usable studies showing switch grass sustainability
M	Support wise growth of Ethanol	Support partners with development of biofuels	LWCD	2009-2013	4	$ 100			Biofuel development
M		Work with partners (RC&D) to develop educational materials on biofuels on timberland.	LWCD, NRCS, RC&D	2009-2013	4	$ 100			Development of educational materials
L		Promote 10% biofuel that Cassville power plant requires to be from sustainable sources.	LWCD, DNR-F	2009	4	$ 100			Cassville power plant requiring biofuels come from sustainable sources

Resource Concern #7: Land Development

RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	Preserve Farmland	Promote the Farmland Preservation Program	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Soil Erosion				
H		Ensure the participants in Farmland Preservation Program are in compliance with the statewide agricultural performance standards	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Soil Erosion				
M	Inform buyer/seller of statewide agricultural performance standards that address conservation issues on their property	Produce a fact sheet to distribute to realtors of Grant County	LWCD	2009	18	$ 450	$ 100		Fact sheet for realtors
M	Encourage smart growth in Grant County	Work with county zoning administer on smart growth plan	LWCD	2009-2013	18	$ 450			

Resource Concern #8: Forestry

RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	Increase productivity and diversity of Grant County forests	Work with DNR forester to promote wise use of woodlots through available forestry programs.	LWCD, DNR-F	2009-2013	9	$ 225	$ 100		# of landowners in MFL
M		Hold an annual tree sale to provide a variety of trees at a reasonable cost to the landowner.	LWCD	2009-2013	200	$ 5,000			# of landowners served and trees sold
M		Distribute trees and literature to area schools for Arbor Day.	LWCD	2009-2013	Included in Info/Ed				
M		Supervise and maintain county owned forestry equipment.	LWCD	2009-2013	40	$ 1,000	$ 500		Use of forestry equipment
M		Promote implementation of best management forestry practices through county, state and federal cost share programs.	LWCD, DNR-F	2009-2013	Included in Info/Ed				# of forestry practices installed
M		Promote 10% biofuel that Cassville power plant requires to be from sustainable sources.	LWCD, DNR-F	2009	Included in Renewable Energy				

Resource Concern #9: Wildlife Management

RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
H	Ensure population/resource balance for wildlife	Administer the Wildlife Damage Abatement Program (WDAP).	LWCD, WDAP	2009-2013	100	$ 2,500			All participants meeting requirements of program
M	Threatened and Endangered Species	Fill out NEPA evaluations on all practices installed under EQIP and cooperate with other agencies on management of threatened and endangered species.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	20	$ 500			20 NEPA evaluations completed
M	Improve habitat for the wildlife in Grant County	Support local citizen groups in installing habitat and conservation work (Wings Over Wisconsin, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited).	LWCD	2009-2013	Included in Soil Conservation				

	Resource Concern #10: Invasive Species Management								
RANK	Objectives	Actions	WHO	WHEN	ESTIMATED STAFF HOURS	ESTIMATED COST / STAFF	ESTIMATED SUPPORT COST	ESTIMATED COST SHARE	PROGRESS MEASUREMENT TOOLS
M	To control invasive species	Support RC&D invasive species specialist	LWCD	2009-2013	4	$ 100			Presence of RC&D invasive species specialist
M		Educate the public on current regulations regarding invasive species through "Countryside Clinic" articles and fair displays.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	Included in Info/Ed				
L		Work with managed grazing participants to control multi flora rose.	LWCD, NRCS	2009-2013	40	$ 1,000			Population numbers of multi flora rose
M	To increase the populations of native species in Grant County	Promote the use of native species in conservation practices and CREP, CCRP, CRP	LWCD, FSA, NRCS	2009-2013	10	$ 250			# of plans using native species
		Totals			18336	$ 458,400.00	$ 59,150.00	$ 1,410,000.00	
		Staff Equivalents			8.82				

CHAPTER 3

GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION REGULATIONS

Historically, Grant County's conservation policies have been based on voluntary compliance. Cost sharing and technical assistance have been available for those who wish to improve their water quality and control their soil erosion. Recently, to comply with state and federal programs, a more regulatory approach has been developed. The following items are the result of this change.

CHAPTER 37: ANIMAL WASTE STORAGE AND NUTRIENT UTILIZATION

Animal waste storage and nutrient utilization is regulated through Chapter 37 of the Grant County Code of Ordinances. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the location, design, construction, installation, alteration, closure and the utilization of animal waste from these facilities in order to prevent water pollution and protect the water resources of Grant County. A permit is required before any construction activity takes place. Each application for a permit under the Ordinance shall include a complete set of detailed construction plans and a Nutrient Management Plan. Applications are reviewed by the Grant County LWCD to ensure compliance with NRCS standards and specifications.

NR 216, WIS. ADM. CODE

Under subchapter III of NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, a notice of intent shall be filed with the DNR by any landowner who disturbs one or more acres of land. This disturbance can create a point source discharge of storm water from the construction site to waters of the state and is therefore regulated by DNR. Agriculture is exempt from this requirement for activities such as planting, growing, cultivating and harvesting of crops for human or livestock consumption and pasturing or yarding of livestock as well as sod farms and tree nurseries. Agriculture is not exempt from the requirement to submit a notice of intent for one or more acres of land disturbance for the construction of structures such as barns, manure storage facilities or barnyard runoff control systems. (See s. NR 216.42(2), Wis. Adm. Code.) Furthermore, construction of an agricultural building or facility must follow an erosion and sediment control plan consistent with s. NR 216.46, Wis. Adm. Code and including meeting the performance standards of s. NR 151.11, Wis. Adm. Code.

An agricultural building or facility is not required to meet the post-construction performance standards of NR 151.12, Wis. Admin. Code. (07/31/08 MAL)

POLICY FOR REQUIRED MINIMUM STANDARDS TO CONTROL EROSION

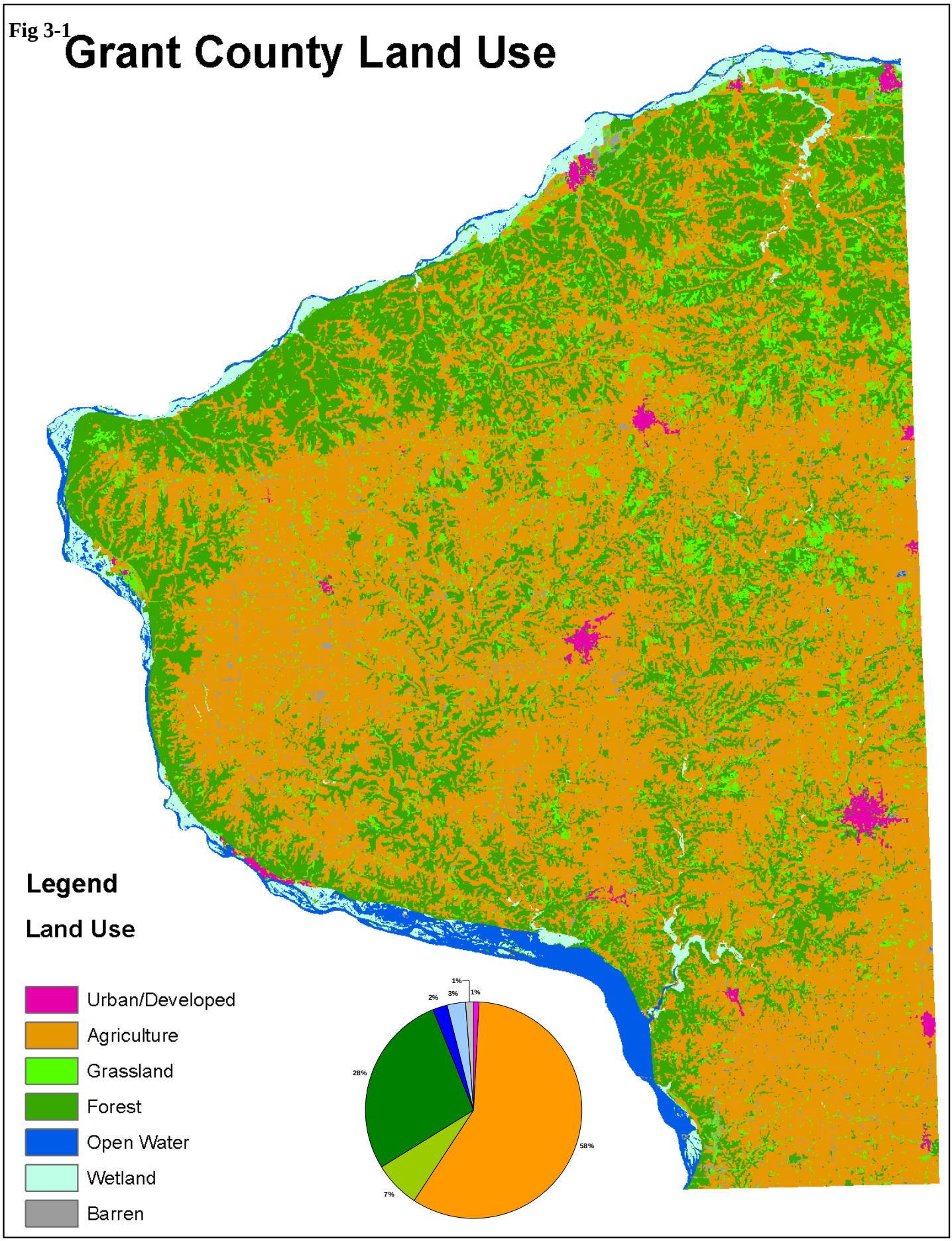
To ensure consistent conservation farm planning to comply with state agricultural performance standards and USDA compliance requirements, Grant County LWCC/LWCD passed the policy for Required Minimum Standards to Control Ephemeral Gully Erosion on June 9th, 2003. The policy states that all sheet and rill erosion (T) will be determined using the RUSLE2 soil loss equation. Ephemeral gullies must be stabilized with critical area planting or grassed waterways. All ephemeral gully erosion will be treated using specific practices determined by land slope as follows.

B Slopes (4-6%): Farmed on contour w/30% residue remaining after planting or farmed cross-slope with continuous no-till and at least 50% corn residue, 30% soybean residue remaining after planting. Cover crop recommended.

C Slopes (6-10%): Farmed w/minimum 15' contour buffer strips on 10% of field and 30% residue remaining after planting or farmed on the contour with continuous no-till and at least 70% corn residue, 50% soybean residue remaining after planting – will be spot checked every year. Fields that cannot be contoured will require a minimum 30' grass barrier(s) as necessary. Cover crop recommended.

D Slopes (10-15%): Farmed w/minimum 30' contour buffer strips on 20% of field and 30% residue after planting corn or farmed w/minimum 15' contour buffer strips with continuous no-till and at least 70% corn residue, 50% soybean residue remaining after planting – will be spot checked every year. Soybean ground cannot be worked. Fields that cannot be contoured will require hay in rotation as required by RUSLE2. A cover crop is required on all fields planted to seed corn and all fields where silage is removed.

Fig 3-1


Grant County Land Use
Legend
Land Use
Urban/Developed
Agriculture
Grassland
Forest
Open Water
Wetland
Barren
1%
1%
3%
2%
28%
58%
7%

NR 151 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Effective October 1, 2002, NR 151 set forth, minimum state performance standards and prohibitions for farms and urban areas. These performance standards and prohibitions were designed to achieve water quality standards by limiting nonpoint source water pollution. Figure 3-2 shows the performance standards needing to be implemented and conservation practices used for complying with the requirements. The implementation of this strategy is based on staff and funding availability.

Fig. 3-2 Overview of Standards and Conservation Practices

Performance standard ***(Type of standard covered)***	Effective Date	Conservation Initiatives
Control soil erosion to meet tolerable soil loss (T) calculated by RUSLE 2. *(Cropland)*	October 1, 2002	Install contour farming, cover and green manure crop, crop rotation, diversions, field windbreaks, residue management, strip-cropping, and terrace systems. Related runoff controls: critical area stabilization, grade stabilization structures, sinkhole treatment, water and sediment control basins, waterway systems.
Construct, maintain and close manure storage facilities to prevent manure overflows and leaks. *(Livestock operations and facilities)*	October 1, 2002	Meet NRCS standards for construction, maintenance, and closure using technical standards: 313 *(waste storage facility)*, 360 *(closure of waste impoundments)*, 634 *(manure transfer standard)*.
Divert clean water from feedlots. *(Livestock operations and facilities within Water Quality Management Areas)*	October 1, 2002	Install diversions, roof runoff systems, subsurface drains, and underground outlets.
Manure Management Prohibitions a. No overflow from manure storage facilities. b. No unconfined manure stacks within the Water Quality Management Area. c. No direct runoff from feedlots and manure storage facilities. d. No unlimited access of livestock to shore lands that prevents maintenance of adequate sod cover. *(Livestock operations and facilities)*	October 1, 2002	a. Design and construct facilities to technical standards, maintain facilities including adequate freeboard, repair or replace facilities, as needed. b. Relocate manure piles, construct manure storage facilities. c. Install barnyard runoff control systems, including diversions, milking center waste control systems, relocating or abandoning animal feeding operations, roof runoff systems, sediment basins, subsurface drains, underground outlets, water and sediment control basin, wastewater treatment strips, well decommissioning. For manure storage facility runoff, see (a.) above. d. Install access roads and cattle crossings, animal trails and walkways, critical area stabilization, livestock fencing, livestock watering facilities, prescribed grazing, riparian buffers, streambank and shoreline protection.
Control nutrient runoff into waters of the state. *(Cropland)*	Effective in 2003 for new operations, 2005 for land near impaired or exceptional waters, and 2008 for other existing farms.	Develop and follow an annual nutrient management plan for applying fertilizer or manure. Base plans on soil tests conducted by a DATCP certified laboratory. Become qualified to prepare plan or use qualified planners. Apply nutrients according to UWEX recommendations for crops. Install additional conservation or management practices to reduce nutrient loading.

Identification of Priority Farms

Agricultural land use was determined to be the main focus for our priority areas. (Fig 3-1) To narrow this down, participants in the Farmland Preservation Program have been identified as the priority farms over the next ten years. Our staff, in cooperation with NRCS, will develop a conservation plan identifying what a participant needs to do to come into compliance with the statewide agricultural performance standards on a tenth of the participants each year. This will amount to an average of 88 participants each year. (See Page 4 for implementation strategy.)

Information and Education Activities

Every effort will be made to inform Grant County landowners about the required statewide agricultural performance standards and prohibitions. Approximately 2300 landowners are assisted each year through our office. Both county and federal staff will provide landowners with an overview of the regulatory requirements pertaining to them. This effort will utilize existing fact sheets in addition to any materials

provided by DNR and DATCP. The primary goal will focus on establishing a voluntary approach by landowners to come into compliance with the required standards.

When implementing conservation practices, staff will work with landowners to assure that the practices being constructed meet the regulatory framework. They will also inform the landowner why compliance is necessary and the expectations for long-term maintenance of the practice being implemented. Information on available county, state or federal funding will also be given at this time.

Additional information will be given through our weekly newspaper column, The Countryside Clinic. This column is distributed to over 25,000 households across Grant County. An annual report is published yearly showcasing the accomplishments of the office for the past year. We participate in the Grant County Fair, hoping to reach people we do not ordinarily come in contact we on a day to day basis.

Education and Nutrient Management Plans go hand and hand. On Wednesday June 4th, we helped form the Grant & Lafayette Nutrient Management Planning Committee. Members of the committee are Ted Bay, UW-Extension , Karen Talarczyk, NPM, Lynda Schweikert, Grant County Conservationist, Lisa Trumble, Lafayette County Conservationist, Karyl Fritsche, Lancaster NRCS District Conservationist, Sarah Daugherty, SW Tech Farm Business Inst., and Chris Baxter, UW-Platteville/Extension Specialist. The goal of the committee is to provide nutrient management planning training to all who desire it, to help achieve the goal of everyone developing and understanding their nutrient management plan.

We have just completed an inventory of local agronomists, explaining to them the current NMP situation and asking who is interested in helping us achieve our goal. That survey showed us that many of them are interested in continued SNAP + training. Chris Baxter, UW-Platteville/Extension Specialist has agreed to develop a program to train agronomists and landowners as well.

Reaching the youth is a high priority. Grant County administers a yearly poster and speaking contest. The LWCC sponsors youths to attend "Conservation Camp" as well as teachers to attend "Trees for Tomorrow." Our employees are always willing to visit local schools to introduce conservation issues and explore new ways to involve conservation into their curriculum. For additional Information and Education activities that our office participates in see pages 24-25.

Status Report

Each site being inventoried will receive a status report. The status report will contain the following:

- The current status of compliance of individual parcels with each of the performance standards and prohibitions.
- Identify corrective measure options and rough cost estimates to comply with each of the performance standards and prohibitions for which a site is not in compliance.
- Status of eligibility and availability for cost sharing.
- An explanation of conditions that apply if cost share funds are used.
- Signature lines indicating landowner agreement or disagreement with report findings.
- Process and procedures to contest evaluation results to county and or state

Funding, Administration and Technical Assistance

The LWCD uses various sources for funding conservation practices including local, state and federal cost share programs. Annual allocations from DATCP are earmarked for practices shown in Figure 1-5.

A voluntary approach will be utilized to address the state performance standards concerns. Through our previously mentioned Information and Education efforts, one on one contacts and countywide newsletters we will inform the landowners of the standards and the cost sharing available for implementation of them.

If cost sharing is involved, the appropriate agreements will be signed and implemented. Technical assistance in the form of the following will be provided throughout project implementation:

- Conservation planning assistance
- The review of conservation plans by other parties (Technical Service Provider)
- Engineering design
- The review of engineering designs by other parties
- Construction oversight
- Certification of construction projects to standards

Upon completion of the practice installation, staff will issue a letter of compliance to the landowner indicating the site has been brought into compliance with the applicable performance standards and prohibitions.

Coordination

Coordination and cooperation is the key to success for our plan. NRCS is the main agency that we work with on a daily basis coordinating farm planning and technical responsibilities. FSA and DNR Forester help out on specific programs as needed, i.e.: CREP and forestry management practices.

When it comes to outreach and education, UW-Extension is who we turn to. Our Grant County Agricultural Extension Agent has been instrumental in coordinating our nutrient management planning training and outreach.

DNR has been helpful in identifying water resources in need of attention. Even though we have not had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the past, our relationship with DNR has always been open and understanding. This plan does direct us to develop a MOU with DNR to specify our roles and responsibilities, especially in regards to enforcement and regulation. Currently, when an individual is found in violation, DNR is notified. As site visit is coordinated with DNR, LWCD, NRCS, and the landowner. Solutions are determined at that time.

APPENDIX A

"The Planning Process"
Table of Contents

GRANT COUNTY
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

150 West Alona Lane, Suite #1, Lancaster, WI 53813 608/723-6377 X120

January 17, 2008

To: Interested Individuals and Agency Staff

From: Lynda Schweikert, County Conservationist
Grant County Land & Water Conservation Committee

In order for the Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) to obtain funds from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and Department of Natural Resources, we have to develop a five year Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plan. This plan shows how we intend to implement conservation in our county over the next five years. Our current plan expires at the end of 2008.

A vital part of the process is assembling a local advisory committee to assist in the development of the plan. Behind this idea is the thought that a diverse mix of interested groups and individuals such as landowners, local government officials and staff, educators, basin partner teams, interest groups and citizens will have the best idea of the needs and concerns of the county in which they live. The main purpose of the local advisory committee is to:

Help identify problem areas and conservation issues and concerns;
Provide information and technical data for the plan;
Assist with preparing the plan;
Review and comment on the plan as it develops.

This is where you come in; we are offering you an invitation to participate in our planning process to help develop our goals for the next five years. Our first local advisory committee will meet:

Tuesday March 11th, 2008, 1:00 P.M.
South Room; Youth & Ag Building; Lancaster

If you are interested in working with us on our LWRM plan or have questions regarding the planning process, please contact us at 608-723-6377 ext #3.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lynda Schweikert
Grant County Conservationist

List of People Invited to Local Advisory Committee

Name	Affiliation/Occupation
Alan Neises	LWCD
Ann Conley	NRCS
Annette Lolwing	LWCD
Bill Moore	Friends of the Platte River
Bob Donaldson	Friends of the Platte River
Bob Hansis	DNR
Bode Brothers	Agricultural Producer
Brian Crapp	Agricultural Producer
Butch Austin	County Sanitarian
Craig Hollingsworth	DNR Forester
Dale Hood	LWCC
Darrell Crapp	Agricultural Producer, WPDES
Dave Mours	NRCS
David Fritz	Harry & Laura Nohr, TU
Dennis Hottenstein	FSA
Dennis Presser	DATCP
Don Splinter	LWCD
Gary Mayne	Agronomist
George Booth	LWCC
Greg Faber	Pheasants Forever
Jack Wiederholt	FSA CED
Jean Unmuth	DNR
Jim Amrhein	DNR
Karen Talarczyk	NPM SW Educator
Karyl Fritsche	NRCS DC
Kevin Lange	LWCD
Rand Atkinson	Friends of Rountree Branch
Lynda Schweikert	LWCD CC
Mike Porter	Agricultural Producer
Paul Landon	LWCC Chairman
Peggy Compton	Basin Educator
Randy Chambers	LWCD
Rick Dewitte	DNR Warden
Shannon Wolf	Agricultural Producer
Steve Adrian	LWCC
Steve Bertjens	SW Badger RC& D
Steve Gehrke	Wings Over Wisconsin
Sue Rojemann	NRCS
Tammy Enz	Friends of the Platte River
Ted Bay	UWEX
Terry Loeffelholz	County Zoning Administrator
Tim Wood	Lancaster Ag Research
Todd Cockroft	NRCS
Tom Friar	Peoples State Bank
Tom Kunkel	Agricultural Producer
Vince Loeffelholz	LWCC
William Biefer	LWCC
William Scheir	Agricultural Producer – FPP
Dwight Nelson	LWCC
Mike Degen	DNR
Dave Klar	LWCC

GRANT COUNTY
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

150 West Alona Lane, Suite #1, Lancaster, WI 53813 608/723-6377 X120

March 11, 2008

Re: Land and Water Resource Management Plan Planning Meeting
Who: Local Advisory Committee

Agenda

1:00	Introductions
1:15	What is a Land and Water Resource Management Plan
1:30	Prioritizing Resource Concerns
2:00	Understanding the Statewide Agricultural Performance Standards
2:30	Choosing Priority Areas

List of Participants Attending March 11, 2008 Meeting

Name	Affiliation/Occupation
Alan Neises	LWCD
Ann Conley	NRCS
Annette Lolwing	LWCD
Bill Moore	Friends of the Platte River
Bob Donaldson	Friends of the Platte River
Bob Hansis	DNR
Dale Hood	LWCC
Darrell Crapp	Ag Producer – WPDES
Dave Mours	NRCS
David Fritz	TU
Dennis Presser	DATCP
Don Splinter	LWCC
Karen Talarczyk	NPM SW Educator
Karyl Fritsche	NRCS DC
Kevin Lange	LWCD
Rand Atkinson	Friends of the Rountree
Lynda Schweikert	LWCD CC
Paul Landon	LWCC
Randy Chambers	LWCD
Steve Adrian	LWCC
Sue Rojemann	NRCS
Tammy Enz	Friends of the Platte River
Ted Bay	UWEX
Tim Wood	Lancaster Ag Research
Todd Cockroft	NRCS
Vince Loeffelholz	LWCC
William Biefer	LWCC

Grant County Land and Water Resource Management Planning Survey

Resource Concerns – Please rank the following resource concerns, with (1) being the highest priority and (12) being the lowest.

__ Air Quality	__ Livestock Management	__ Wildlife Management
__ Forestry	__ Information / Education	__ Invasive Species
__ Land Development	__ Soil Erosion	__ Renewable Energy
__ Threatened or Endangered Species	__ Groundwater Quality	__ Surface Water Quality
__ Other _____	__ Other _____	__ Other _____

Statewide Agricultural Performance Standards – Please rank the following standards with (1) being the highest priority and (10) being the lowest.

___ Meet tolerable "T" soil loss

___ Develop and follow a nutrient management plan

___ Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into waters of the State

___ Maintain adequate sod along waters of the State

___ Prevent overtopping of waste storage

___ Repair leaking waste storage facilities

___ Build waste storage facilities according to standards

___ Close waste storage facilities according to standards

___ Do not stack manure within WQMA

___ Divert clean water around feedlots, waste storage and barnyards within WQMA

Priority Areas – Please rank the following priority areas with (1) being the highest priority and (6) being the lowest

__ Farmland Preservation Program Participants	__ Land Use	__ Impaired Waters	__ Exceptional Waters
__ Complaint Issues	__ Citizen Workgroups	__ Other _____	

Land Use – Please rank the following land uses, with (1) being the highest priority and (7) being the lowest.

_ Urban/Development	_ Open Water	_ Barren
_ Agriculture	_ Wetland	
_ Grassland	_ Forest	

Grant County LWRM plan Survey Results

Resource Concerns

1. Soil Erosion
2. Groundwater Quality
3. Surface Water Quality
4. Livestock Management
5. Information / Education
6. Renewable Energy
7. Land Development
8. Forestry
9. Wildlife Management
10. Invasive Species
11. Air Quality
12. Threatened and Endangered Species

Other

Rural Economic Viability
Tourism/Recreation
Absentee Landowners
Global Warming
Prairie Corridor Restoration

Statewide Agricultural Performance Standards

1. Meet tolerable "T" soil loss
2. Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into waters of the state
3. Divert clean water around feedlots, waste storage and barnyards within WQMA
4. Build waste storage facilities according to standards
5. Stack manure outside WQMA
6. Develop and follow a nutrient management plan
7. Repair leaking waste storage facilities
8. Maintain adequate sod along waters of the state
9. Prevent overtopping of waste storage facilities
10. Close waste storage facilities according to standards

Priority Areas

1. Land Use
   a. Agriculture
   b. Forestry
   c. Wetlands
   d. Urban
2. Impaired Waters
3. Farmland Preservation Program
4. Exceptional Waters
5. Complaints
6. Citizen Workgroups

GRANT COUNTY
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

150 West Alona Lane, Suite #1, Lancaster, WI 53813 608/723-6377 X120

April 16, 2008

Re: Land and Water Resource Management Plan Planning Meeting
Who: Local Advisory Committee

Agenda

1:00 Review of Survey Results

1:15 – 2:30 Discussion of Objectives / Actions for Resource Concerns

List of Participants attending April 16, 2008 meeting

Name	Affiliation/Occupation
Andy Morton	DNR
Ann Conley	NRCS
Annette Lolwing	LWCD
Bob Donaldson	Friends of the Platte River
Bob Hansis	DNR
Craig Hollingsworth	DNR
Dale Hood	LWCC
Dave Klar	LWCC
Dave Mours	NRCS
Dwight Nelson	LWCC
Jim Amrhein	DNR
Karen Talarczyk	NPM SW Educator
Karyl Fritsche	NRCS DC
Lynda Schweikert	LWCD CC
Mike Degen	DNR
Paul Landon	LWCC Chair
Randy Chambers	LWCD
Shannon Wolf	Agriculture Producer
Steve Adrian	LWCC
Ted Bay	UWEX
Todd Cockroft	NRCS
Vince Loeffelholz	LWCC
William Biefer	LWCC

Please publish the weeks of July 21 & July 28, 2008

For more information contact Lynda Schweikert
Grant County Land & Water Conservation Dept.
(608) 723-6377 ext. #120

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held in the North Room of the Youth & Agriculture Building in Lancaster, Wisconsin, on Monday August 4, 2008 for the purpose of soliciting comments on the Land and Water Resource Management Plan being developed by the Grant County Land & Water Conservation Committee. An open house will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 P.M. to allow participants to look over the plan. The Public Hearing will immediately follow at 7:00 P.M. A copy of the plan can be obtained from the Land & Water Conservation Department at 150 W. Alona Lane, Lancaster, WI 53813 or found on the Grant County website at www.co.grant.wi.gov/.

GLOSSARY

303(d) Waters This list identifies waters which are not meeting water quality standards, including both water quality criteria for specific substances or the designated uses. It is used as the basis for development of Total Maximum Daily Loads(TMDL's) under the provisions of section 303(d)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act, U.S. EPA requires that the DNR update its list every 2 years. Also called List of Impaired Waters.

Animal Waste Management Program This regulatory program, administered by the DNR via NR 243, seeks to identify and correct animal waste-related water quality problems.

ATCP 50 The chapter of Wisconsin's Administrative Code that implements the Land and Water Resource Management Program as described in Chapter 92 of the State Statutes. It identifies those conservation practices that may be used to meet performance standards.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) The most effective practice or combination of practices for reducing nonpoint source pollution to acceptable levels.

Chapter 92 Portion of Wisconsin Statutes outlining the soil and water conservation, agricultural shoreland management, and animal waste management laws and policies of the State.

Conservation Plan A record of decisions and intentions made by land users regarding the conservation of the soil, water and related natural resources of a particular unit of land.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program An add-on to the CRP program which expands and builds on CRP's success in certain areas of the state.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) A provision of the federal Farm Bill that takes eligible cropland out of production and puts it into grass or tree cover for 10-15 years.

Cooperator A landowner or operator who is working with, or has signed a cooperative agreement with, a county LWCC.

County Conservationist County Land & Water Conservation Department head, responsible for implementing programs assigned to the LWCD and for supervising LWCD staff.

Critical Sites Those sites that are significant sources of nonpoint source pollution upon which BMPs shall be implemented as described in s. 281.65(4)(g) 8.am., stats.

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) The state agency responsible for establishing statewide soil and water conservation policies and administering the state's soil and water conservation programs. The DATCP administers state cost-sharing funds for a variety of LWCC operations, including support for staff, materials and conservation practices. Referred to in the LWRM plan guidelines as the "department".

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) The state agency responsible for managing state owned lands and protecting public waters. DNR also administers programs to regulate, guide and assist LWCC's, LWCD's and individual land users in managing land, water, fish and wildlife. The DNR administers state cost-sharing funds for priority watershed project, Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants, and Urban Nonpoint Source Construction and Planning grants.

District Conservationist (DC) NRCS employee responsible for administering federal conservation programs at the local level.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) The agency of the federal government responsible for carrying out the nation's pollution control laws. It provides technical and financial assistance to reduce and control air, water and land pollution.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Federal program to provide technical and cost-sharing assistance to landowners for conservation practices that provide water quality protection.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) USDA agency that administers agricultural assistance programs including price supports, production controls and conservation cost sharing.

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) A DATCP land-use program under Chapter 91, Wisconsin Statutes, that helps preserve farmland through local planning and zoning, promotes soil and water conservation and provides tax relief to participating farmers.

Geographic Information System (GIS) A computerized system of maps and layers of data about land including soils, land cover, topography, field boundaries, roads and streams. Such geographically based data layers improve the ability to analyze complex data for decision making.

Impaired Waters List Same as the 303(d) list.

Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Composed of 3 local elected officials, 4 appointed by the Governor (1 shall be a resident of a city with a population of 50,000 or more, 1 shall represent a governmental unit involved in river management, 1 shall be a farmer and 1 shall be a member of a charitable corporation, charitable association or charitable trust and leaders from three state agencies, the LWCB oversees the approval of county land and water management plans (s.92.04, stats.).

Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) A locally developed and implemented multi-year strategic plan with an emphasis on partnerships and program integration. The plan includes a resource assessment, identifies the applicable performance standards and related control of pollution from nonpoint sources, identifies a multiyear description of planned activities, , establishes a progress tracking system, and describes an approach for coordinating information and implementation programs with other local, state and federal agencies, communities and organization (ATCP 50.12).

Land Conservation Committee (LWCC) The portion of county government empowered, by Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to conserve and protect the county's soil, water and related natural resources. Referred to in the LWRM guidelines as the "committee".

Land Conservation Department (LWCD) The department of county government responsible for administering the conservation programs and policies of the Land Conservation Committee.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Part of USDA, NRCS provides soil survey, conservation planning and technical assistance to local land users.

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Pollution from many small or diffuse urban and rural sources. Livestock waste finding its way into a stream and causing water pollution is an example of a non-point source pollution.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program A DNR water quality program under Chapters 120 and s. 281, Wisconsin Statutes, which provides technical assistance and cost-sharing to landowners to develop and maintain management practices to prevent or reduce nonpoint source water pollution in designated watersheds.

NR 151 DNR's administrative code that establishes runoff pollution performance standards for non-agricultural facilities and transportation facilities and performance standards and prohibitions for agricultural facilities and practices designed to meet water quality standards.

Nutrient Management Plan The Nutrient Management Plan means any of the following: (a) A plan required under s. ATCP 50.04 (3) or 50.62 (5) (f). (b) A farm nutrient plan prepared or approved, for a landowner, by a qualified nutrient management planner.

ORW/ERW DNR classifies streams as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) and Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW) as listed in NR 102.10 and NR102.11. ORW waters have excellent water quality and high-quality fisheries and do not receive wastewater discharges. ERW waters have excellent water quality and valued fisheries but may already receive wastewater discharges

Priority Farms Farms identified by the county for having excessive runoff from soil erosion and/or manure resulting in existing or potential water quality problems.

Soil and Water Resource Management Program (SWRM) DATCP program that provides counties with funds to hire and support Land Conservation Department staff and to assist land users in implementing DATCP conservation programs (ATCP 50).

Soil Loss Tolerance ("T") Erosion rate in tons per acre per year at which a soil could maintain productivity.

Soil Survey NRCS conducts the National Cooperative Soil Survey and publishes soil survey reports. Soils data is designed to evaluate the potential of the soil and management needed for maximum food and fiber production. **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** Branch of federal government with responsibilities in the areas of food production, inspection, and storage. Agencies with resource conservation programs and responsibilities, such as FSA, NRCS and Forest Service and others are agencies of the USDA.

University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) The outreach of the University of Wisconsin system responsible for formal and informal educational programs throughout the state.

Watershed The geographic area from which a particular river, stream or water body receives its water supply.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) A provision of the federal Farm Bill that compensates landowners for voluntarily restoring and protecting wetlands on their property.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Federal program to help improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

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