

Waushara County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Executive Summary



**Compiled by the:
Waushara County Land Conservation Department
October 2004**

The Waushara County Land Conservation Department will use the Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) as a guide for the next 5 years (2006-2011). By following the direction of this plan, the natural resources of Waushara County will continue to be enhanced and protected.

This LWRM Plan was developed with input from all participating “partner” agencies at the federal, state and local level. This approach combined the resources and data from several existing programs and plans, to bring it all together in one master plan with the intention that it would be followed not only by the Land Conservation Department (LCD), but all agencies working to protect the natural resources of Waushara County.

The layout of the plan is as follows:

- Chapter One: Plan Development Process
(Citizen participation, inter-agency participation, basin cooperation)
- Chapter Two: County Information
(County overview, resources summary, land use and agricultural trends)
- Chapter Three: Resource Assessment by Watershed
(ORW & ERW waters, watershed descriptions)
- Chapter Four: Estimated Pollutant Loading
(Soil loss information, nutrient loading data)
- Chapter Five: Plan Implementation Strategy
(NR151 strategy, priority farms strategy, program integration)
- Chapter Six: Plan Monitoring and Evaluation
(Annual reporting, water quality monitoring)

Waushara County initiated public participation in 2003 and 2004 by sending several hundred surveys to Town Board Chairs, Lake Associations, Farm Bureau, farmers, ag businesses, local farm service agencies, and NRCS. In February 2004, the LCD, NRCS, and the Local Work Group met and went through the survey results, developing goals, objectives and annual work plans. In March of 2004 the Waushara County LCD conducted a random, countywide survey to receive input on citizen’s environmental concerns. Common areas of concern appeared consisting of:

- Surface water runoff
- Agricultural and Urban runoff,
- Groundwater pollution,
- Wind erosion,
- Invasive species,
- Loss of habitat and the conversion of farmland to urban land.

A Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) was established to use the comments and recommendations from the survey results to develop the LWRM plan. Committee members used information from DNR, Non-Point Source Watershed Rankings, Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) and Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW) to evaluate the conditions of Waushara County. The CAC held its first meeting on October 13, 2004. Three additional meetings were

held to develop goals, objectives and action plans for the areas of resource concern. The revised Land and Water Resource Management Plan was discussed and approved by the Waushara County Land Conservation Committee. A public hearing was held October 6, 2005 at the Waushara County Courthouse. The plan will be taken to the County Board in (to be determined) 2005 for their approval. This plan, because of its locally led direction, has to be reviewed and updated as new information collected is used to fine tune priorities of implementation.

All partner agencies were asked to provide input during plan development, some of them involved were: Wis. DNR, USDA/NRCS and UWEX. In addition, several conservation groups were notified. Such groups included, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, and Ducks Unlimited.

Waushara County is primarily a rural setting that is feeling the development pressure from nearby large cities such as Oshkosh, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids. These cities all are within an hour drive of the County. This pressure has seen the LCD evolve as a total resource concern agency, not just focusing on agriculture related concerns as was the past. Agriculture related resource concerns are still a major concern in the County, but workloads have been adjusted to address all concerns. The plan details how Waushara County LCD will implement the NR 151 Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions. To address NR 151, the plan details the priority farms identification process and ranking system to bring all non-compliant farms into compliance. Using citizen advisory committee recommendations and past workload history, Waushara County will continue and try to address all concerns as a “voluntary” basis. No enforcement will be handled by Waushara County. When and if enforcement measures are needed, the Landowner files will be turned over to the appropriate DNR Staff.

In order to implement the priority farms process, additional staff will be needed, this is noted in the plan implementation budget that can be found in table 5-2 below. For a more detailed look into the goals and objectives of the plan, please see Appendix B for the five year workplan.

Staff needs and budget estimate

Funding Type	2006	2007	2008	2009 PWS Ends	2010
Cost Share	\$452,299	\$452,299	\$452,299	\$452,299	\$85,000
Staffing Grants	\$224,000	\$228,000	\$232,000	\$236,000	\$85,000
County Levy **	\$119,000	\$123,000	\$127,000	\$131,000	135,000
Total Staffing Costs	\$343,000	\$351,000	\$359,000	\$367,000	\$371,000
Total Staffing Deficit					\$151,000

*Note- based on \$85,000 SWRM and \$367,299 PWS dollars until 2009 ** reflects annual cost of living only, no increase in County Levy is expected.

Progress tracking and monitoring will be conducted on an annual basis. Wis. DATCP annual reporting will be used to track progress on state programs relating to NR 151 standards. The process will be divided into two segments, the administrative review and the resource review. The administrative and resource review will be done annually by the LCC. Several models will be used to track phosphorus and sediment. These models may include: the Wisconsin Barnyard Runoff model, Groundwater models for monitoring, Surface Water Quality monitoring, the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation II, the Wind Erosion Prediction System, and an annual records inventory to determine BMP implementation.

This monitoring will be done in conjunction with the DNR's baseline monitoring as funding permits.

APPENDIX B
Five Year Workplan (2005-2009)

Goal #1: Reduce Soil Erosion and continue to protect natural resources

Goal #2: Protect and enhance in-stream, riparian, wetland and upland habitat

Goal #2: (continued): Protect and enhance in-stream, riparian, wetland and upland habitat

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	AGENCY	PROGRESS TRACKING
Implementation of Agricultural Performance Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and create database of “priority” farms 2. Rank & Prioritize priority farms 3. Bring non-compliant “priority” farms into compliance on a voluntary basis (as staff time permits) 4. Install 10,000 acres of nutrient management plans 	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DNR, FSA	Number of Farms identified
Increase awareness of soil & water conservation in schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Host Informational and Educational workshops to local schools promoting awareness of soil & water conservation 	LCD	Give 6 presentations to area schools grades K-12
Reduce wind erosion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the CWWP to install field windbreaks 2. Promote cover crops and high residue management 3. Develop and alternate strategy 	LCD	Sign cost share agreements and install 25 miles of windbreaks
Continue to promote existing conservation programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to work with partner agencies to promote state and federal programs 2. Create 26 news releases to be published in newspaper 3. Create 12 news articles for cooperating agency newsletters 	LCD/NRCS/ FSA/DNR/ DATCP	Annual Accomplishment Report

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	AGENCY	PROGRESS TRACKING
1. Restore and enhance previously altered wetlands throughout county	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restore/enhance 25 previously altered wetlands 2. Continue education of landowners of the importance of wetlands 3. Promote the NRCS’ Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) 	LCD, NRCS, USFWS, DNR	Landowners contacted Acres restored
2. Stabilize stream banks and lakeshores in Waushara County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install 25 bio-engineering stabilization projects 2. Repair damaged banks using available cost sharing or offer technical assistance where applicable 3. Promote Bio-engineering over rock/structures to repair banks 	LWCD, NRCS, DNR	Annual Accomplishment Reporting

3. Restore buffers in Waushara County (agriculture and lakeshore/riparian)	4. Promote Waushara County as a CREP expansion area 5. Promote state and federal programs for buffer restoration/establishment (Open space)	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, Zoning	Landowners contacted
5. Educate riparian owners	1. Attend 15 lake association/district meetings 2. Participate and attend the Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council meetings	LCD, UWEX	
6. Restore, protect and enhance upland regions of Waushara County	1. Continue to assist with smart growth requirements and land use planning 2. Promote state and federal programs to enhance upland regions	LCD, NRCS, UWEX, DNR	

Goal#3: Protect Surface Waters from Construction Site Erosion Control & Non Metallic Mining

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	AGENCY	PROGRESS TRACKING
1. Create awareness of urban sediment loading	Work with contractors, home buyers, landscapers, and developers promoting construction site erosion conservation	LCD/Zoning	Assist Zoning with Annual Contractors Meeting
2. Control run-off from construction sites	1. Implement the Uniform Dwelling Code requirement for Erosion Control Inspections By the year 2007 2. Complete 200 construction site erosion control inspections for new construction & 200 inspections for remodeling 3. Continue joint onsites with zoning office to enforce the shoreland zoning ordinance 4. Hold annual contractor trainings/certifications addressing construction site erosion control inspections	LCD, Zoning	Number of inspections completed
3. Assure proper rehabilitation of mining sites	1. Review the Waushara County Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance with operators for compliance	Zoning, LCD	Feedback, surveys

Goal#4: Reduce nutrients and continue to protect resources

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	AGENCY	PROGRESS TRACKING
1. Increase awareness of proper waste management	Implement a Manure Storage Ordinance	LCD	1 permit issued for storage in 2004
2. Promote Nutrient Management	Hold workshops, seminars, & one on one contacts	LCD	Attended UWEXT 3 day workshop for farmers. Shared information and explained county services
3. Implement the manure management prohibitions	Implement the manure management prohibitions	LCD	Approximately 30% of files have been reviewed due to workload