COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"

In Accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19, subchapter IV, Wisconsin Statutes, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following public meeting:

THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WILL MEET ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016 TIME: 5:15 P.M.

PLACE: AGRICULTURE & RESOURCE CENTER, Room AG103

227 1ST ST. WEST, ALTOONA, WI 54720

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Input Session (30 minute maximum) – *Discussion*

   Please Note: Limit of 3 minutes per speaker
3. Approve Minutes – *Discussion/Action* **Pages 2-7**
4. Review Vouchers – *Discussion* **Page 8**
5. County Cost-Share Applications and Ledger Update – *Discussion/Action* **Pages 9-11**
6. Approve Agriculture Enterprise Area (AEA) Applications – *Discussion/Action* **Pages 12-24**
7. Highlights from Eau Claire River Watershed Plan – *Discussion*
   a. Plan Overview **Pages 25-31**
   b. Implementation Strategies **Pages 32-45**
   c. Potential Funding Opportunities **Pages 46-55**
8. Agency Updates and Committee Member Reports – *Discussion* **Pages 56-59**
9. Next Meeting Date(s) - *Discussion/Action*
10. Adjourn – *Discussion/Action*

PLEASE NOTE: ***Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710, (Fax:) 839-1669 or 839-4735, tty: use Relay (711), or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.***

RECEIVED _____

POSTED _____

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016
AGRICULTURAL & RESOURCE CENTER – ALTOONA, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Robin Leary, Bruce Willett, Dean Solie, Gary Gibson, Ray Henning, Glory Adams, Tami Schraufnagel
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Ricky Strauch
STAFF PRESENT:	Kelly Jacobs (P&D - Land Conservation Division); Greg Leonard (P&D - Land Conservation Division); Chad Berge (P&D - Land Conservation Division); Josh Pederson (Parks&Forest); Lance Gurney (P&D)
OTHERS PRESENT:	Jen Roetter, USDA-NRCS; Don and Tami Schroeder, AEA applicants; Vic and Mary Price, AEA applicants; Fred Poss & Rod Zika, Lake Eau Claire Association

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1. **Call to Order**
   Meeting called to order at 5:17pm by Chair Leary.

2. **Presentation to review the proposed Land Conservation Division move to Courthouse (Lance Gurney, Planning and Development Director)**
   Lance Gurney was asked to come in and follow up on the proposed move to courthouse as requested in the July Land Conservation Commission meeting. Gurney discussed the memo from Corporation Counsel, dated September 9, 2016, that outlined the authority of the Land Conservation Commission in relation to personnel management, budgeting, and operational oversight including physical office location of land conservation division staff.

   Leary indicated that the LCC is concerned because we do a lot of programming and educational activities out of the County Ag & Resource center and is concerned about limited courthouse accessibility after 5:00PM. In addition, the UW-Extension offices and staff are also in state of flux and any of those changes are unknown at this time. Also, is there an intention to sell the building? What are the budget expectations associated with such a move?

   Gurney indicated that specific UW-Extension plans are unknown at this time and have included speculation of becoming a more regional model with the state going through a 9 month process to determine how they can meet the state directive of staff reduction. Gurney indicated that he has talked with Kelly Jacobs about mobile office option so that staff is able to provide spot services right on the property.

   Gurney mentioned that the County Strategic Plan outlines a priority to innovate & adapt as well as to be fiscally responsible & collaborate.

   Discussions moved to the County Highway Shop. It is currently in the pre-planning stage and there has been a space assessment completed that have given three options to: tear down and rebuild onsite, remodel existing facility, or build off site. Ray Henning indicated that there has been nothing solid presented yet. Josh Pederson indicated that he has not been part of those discussions.

Gurney indicated that in 2017 there is a recommendation to complete a space needs and analysis study county-wide.

Concerns were expressed regarding How the Ag and Resource building would function following LCD's departure, what is planned for the other departments that are left, the fact that many of these decisions are being made as a result of speculation, costs associated with the move. Also concerned about the function of the Courthouse building— will there be more custodial help needed? What are the additional security issues (especially with youth programming in a potentially more dangerous environment)? It is nice to have all the existing services together under one roof to better serve the client here.

Discussion on the background of the current location. Originally the offices of USDA-SCS (now natural resources conservation service), USDA-ACS (now farm service agency), County LCD, and Extension were all housed together as a one stop shopping center for ag & extension programming. The group moved to the ag & resource center building in March 1991 and County LCD has been here ever since. It cost the County $225,000 to buy this property at the time.

Leary indicated that she was a little taken back by the tone of the memo, a little surprised, and she hoped the budget was not a threat that required this consideration. Gurney indicated that he requested the memo from Keith Zehms, that he has recently discussed it with Jacobs, and had no idea what the memo would include. He requested it to determine the role of LCC, the role of P&D, and the role of his Position. The intention was to provide clarity to the roles, but does not envision changing the budget review process-- LCC still has an important role.

Request for a report on the watershed work -- there was a discussion about the watershed efforts and how those tie into the Lake Eau Claire Planning team work that has been occurring. In regards to the budget review process for watershed plan work-- that typically comes to the LCC for their review, then is recommended to the Committee on Planning and Development (following Lance's review), and then they recommend a budget to County Administration.

Gurney indicated that the timeline for the move is tied to changes in the Housing Authority (which is intended to transition in 2017 and 2018. There were concerns expressed as to if there would be room for LCD to do what they do. Gurney indicated that there are 4 conference rooms on 3rd floor and 15 total in the courthouse. P&D staff usually use 3 or 4 that are closest to their offices. Regarding locked doors, evening meetings are typically best held on 1st floor. Parking for additional staff and customers was a concern. Also discussed difficulties surrounding air exchange which changes based on occupancy in the rooms.

What's next? We want some input – Gurney directed Jacobs to work out details.

Schraufnagel indicated that she serves with LCC, Parks and Forest & UW Extension Committees. The move will allow for sharing of more resources with P&D, but what about the resources that are being directed away from the remaining Parks and Forest staff? What are the new facility requirements for remaining offices? We need to also consider what will happen to the Parks and Forestry Department. Gurney indicated that his focus is first on how the P&D department is covered and then will go to other departments on how to partner with P&D.

Gurney indicated that there are approximately 50 customers a day at P&D and there are 1.7 administrative staff to cover the office. As such, all staff have to chip in. Some of the levy limits have made it a little more difficult.

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Poss outlined that concerns are well taken and concurs that it is much easier to park at the Ag&Resource Center & access staff. The concern regarding safety for young people and senior citizens is very important. Also, the concerns regarding the costs associated with a move. Without LCD staff in the Ag&Resource Center, what are the long term plans for this building?

Willett indicated that the location to bring all services together should not be housed in the existing Courthouse. We need a longer term vision – populations are likely to increase to 3 times the population of today and will require more staff. Staff and customers all need a good place to park as well. The consideration of using existing County park land for building is completely out of line. The County does need a convenient location that is fairly central in the County and should be thinking more about what's to the east of us. Development in the form of 200 more apartments in River Prairie and likely more to come.

Alternate options were discussed by LCC members including the potential for Housing authority to rent some of the ag center space? Potential for the Planning and Development Department to move out to the Ag Center. A lengthy discussion followed on the history of the Housing authority in Eau Claire County.

Jacobs asked what spurred the discussions about the Land Conservation Division move, as that had not yet come up in the discussion. Gurney provided a list of the benefits to relocating LCD staff to the Courthouse including:

- Ongoing issues with budget and find ways to better fund staff and maintain personnel
- Reduce duplication of everything associated with a separate office (i.e. Two copiers, two plotters, office coverage)
- Able to help cover for each other during vacancies
- Accommodate all functions of P&D in one suite
- Team work → right now we have physical limitations
- To improve public service in response to development activity (i.e: subdivisions, chapter 17 & chapter 18 codes)
- interdepartmental effort under one roof
- still able to use this building as long as county owns it (i.e. nutrient management workshops)
- internal accountability, over sight, staff management
- opportunity created by space that will open as part of the housing authority departure

Gurney feels that there may be some challenges as part of the move, but none are insurmountable.

Leary asked for comments and thoughts from the public in attendance at the meeting. Tammy Schroeder outlined the concerns that parking is not easy to get to at the Courthouse, it requires a special trip, the Courthouse is not a friendly building (it is intimidating) and the current location serves the Land Conservation Division well. She added that she would hate to see LCD move downtown.

Adams indicated that this group in the ag and resource center services people out and about in the County. Gurney indicated that P&D department also services those people too and even more so. When Gurney was asked why he doesn't want to move P&D out to the Ag & Resource Center building, he indicated that there are 23 staff in the P&D department and we would have to kick out UW-Extension in order to accommodate them. Gurney indicated a better option might be to finish the 25,000 sq ft unfinished space on the 3rd floor of the

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Courthouse-- it would cost $250,000-$300,000 to finish that one side. The big picture would include functions that regularly serve the public to be located on the 1st floor of the Courthouse.

Question from LCC regarding how much office space does Eau Claire County rent in City of Eau Claire? Gurney was not aware of anything besides storage units.

Questions from LCC asking when they will we see the nuts and bolts for the budget associated with this move? Such costs to include staff costs for boxing up and moving time? Gurney indicated that there are no external costs and that it will be done in house. There are also budget savings as a result of efficiencies gained from being co-located.

City of Altoona also assessing their options for office space too.

Question regarding what happened to cost of running this building following the NRCS office leaving (cost per square foot)?

Discussion that before or in consideration of moving LCD:

1. Take look at customers (they are typically not townies, they are farmers/agriculture and almost all are landowners). How are we going to serve them?
2. Who the customers really are and how they're going to be served at the CH
3. Once LCD is out then finance will be calculating the cost and the building may no longer be available.

Gurney indicated that the building availability/continuation is not germane to LCD move and is still a county facility available for use. He and Jacobs will get together and talk about how to mitigate those impacts and concerns.

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3. Public Input Session

Fred Poss, Lake Eau Claire Association: Poss opposes the county staff decision to take our $100,000 of lake rehabilitation funds and put it towards Eau Claire River watershed projects. He is opposed to not spending County money to "just dig sand". The sediment traps protect the rookery. The watershed project aims to reduce Phosphorus and identify bank areas to stabilize, but bank stabilization costs millions of dollars. Poss asks the County to restore the partnership we thought we had in Eau Claire County.

Rod Zika, Lake Eau Claire Association: Zika felt that it is clear that Lake Eau Claire and Lake Altoona will be lost if nothing is done. In the past, the LCC has coordinated meetings and a mgt plan developed through County staff support. Plan strategies were approved by Army Corps, DNR, and county. It was recommended that effort be maintain over 25 years. All the money spent over last 3-4 years is wasted if we don't continue the plan. It is clear that we're reversing everything we've worked for.

Jacobs responded with an overview of the strategy associated with reframing of these capital projects. Included in the watershed project recommendation are the following: 1) $70-75,000 for the Lake Eau Claire Troubled Waters Sediment trap; and 2) $20-25,000 to assess high banks and sediment transport and other strategies as outlined in the 9 key element plan. Yes, we should really have another $25,000 in the request for gravel pit trap maintenance in order to fully fund the Lake District's $100,000 request for this budget; but we as a County don't have a lot of extra

money to do everything we want and we also have to prioritize reduction of sediment and Phosphorus from upland sources as well as leverage additional funding resources at the state and federal levels. Gurney concurred that the money is not being taken away from Lake Eau Claire as it was always County money. Yes the funding mechanism is being reframed.

Zika requested that Lake Altoona also has additional recommendations and engineering studies identified in their plan and the County needs to bite the bullet and stick to the plan. Gurney clarified that the Lake Altoona District is the entity that is responsible for implementation of the Lake Altoona Plan.

Gibson requested that the Watershed implementation efforts be highlighted in the next few agendas coming up here. It was mentioned that DNR staff have indicated that their lowest priority is dredging. Leveraging additional funds through collaboration is important - bringing in additional resources will be a good thing to build from in order to pool resources for these efforts. It will be good to have a discussion to help everyone understand how this all lays out. Jacobs indicated the next meeting of the watershed implementation team will be held on October 20, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Augusta Senior Center.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Willett to approve the meeting minutes for July 18, 2016 and August 15, 2016. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. REVIEW VOUCHERS

The vouchers were reviewed.

6. COUNTY COST-SHARE APPLICATIONS AND LEDGER UPDATE

Motion by Henning to approve contracts for Weiss and Wehling projects. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. APPROVE AGRICULTURE ENTERPRISE AREA (AEA) APPLICATIONS

Leonard discussed that the role of the LCC includes implementation of the Farmland Preservation Program as one of the County Codes outlined in Chapter 17. Now that Agriculture Enterprise Area (AEA) has been approved by the state, land owners can apply for agreements. The 15 year agreement is between the landowner and the state and is approved by the LCC in between. Parcel configurations can be complex and parcels with things like "Life Estate" are handled separately from other parcels of a farm – as such, farms can have multiple applications. The application process is ongoing, but for those that wish to claim tax credits for this calendar year, the applications need to be done by the end of October.

Included in your packet is a summary page for each of the applicants. We are now at just over 2000 acres and expect that there will be new credits of just over $5000 to landowners as part of these applications. Discussion on what might be a good goal for these applications. Some AEAs are happy that they have established an AEA and a sign is up. The AEA in Clark and Marathon is very active where some have only one landowner that is eligible for the credits. Some correspondence has indicated that 11% of total eligible acres are enrolled in state AEA agreements. We feel that here in Eau Claire County perhaps we could be double the state average and have at least 22% of eligible designated acreage in agreements.

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Discussion with landowners present:

Tammy Schroeder: With this program I can control what happens to this land from my grave. I'm glad that there will be a cost to take it out of agriculture in the future. I like that Eau Claire County sees the importance of agriculture.

Vic Price: I want to see the farm managed in a sustainable manner. As direct marketers we're amazed at the disconnect between consumers and their food. As a farmer conservationist I've seen a lot of programs and this one has a lot of merit. This program is bringing money back to Eau Claire County. If agriculture went away, we'd be losing our largest economic drivers in the county.

Mary Price: This program identifies prime agricultural land in the County. I would also like to see our agricultural agencies stay together and let out resources continue to be available to us farmers. Being mobile does not mean that staff are more accessible—hard to predict how the day will go and it's nice to just stop by the office and find someone there.

Motion by Henning to approve all AEA's as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

NRCS- As an agency they are combining field offices in multiple counties, but so far Eau Claire has not been considered. Jen Roetter provided a report on status of contracts and signups associated with the CRP, CSP, and EQIP programs. Highlighted the special Cover crop initiative and soil health initiative that provides funds for no till, conservation cover rotation (hay), and cover crops. Also discussed education/outreach with the youth leadership, Chippewa Farm City Days, and work with their STEM internship volunteer.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting will be October 17, 2016 at 5:15PM. LCD report will be provided as part of the meeting.

10. ADJOURN

Motion by Willett to adjourn at 7:12PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Jacobs
Subcommittee Clerk

jh

Land Conservation
September 2016

The following bills were sent to the Finance Department for payment:

Land Conservation

Vendor	Expense	Description	Line Item#
Water Education Group	$655.00	R2R Education/Advertising	57588-912-000
WCWRPC	$2,400.00	R2ROutreach	57588-200-000
Kelly Jacobs	$39.38	Expenses	57410-330-000
WCWRPC	$950.00	R2R Outreach	57588-200-000
Clark Nelson	$200.00	R2R Education/Advertising	57589-912-000
Smartlite	$295.00	R2R Mall Advertising	57588-912-000
NACD	$17.66	Watershed Advertising	57410-326-000
Altoona Post Office	$9.40	Postage	51820-310-000
TOTAL EXPENSES:	**$4,566.44**		

The following funds were sent to the Finance Department for deposit:

Land Conservation

Funds received from	Deposit	Description	Line Item#
Terry Szydel	$280.00	Storm Water Erosion Control	44405-000-000
Michael Weiss	$220.00	Animal Waste	44408-000-000
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	**$500.00**		

Eau Claire County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Land Conservation Division
227 First Street West, Altoona, WI 54720
Phone: (715) 839-6226 ♦ Fax: (715) 839-6277
www.co.eau-claire.wi.us

Housing & Community Development 839-6240
Emergency Services Management 839-4736
County Surveyor 839-4742
Planning & Development 839-4743
Building Inspection 839-2944

COST SHARE AGREEMENT

NAME David Hermundson
TELEPHONE
LOCATION Sec. 33 T25N R10W
UNITS feet, acres

PRACTICE Grassed Waterway Stream Crossing
PRACTICE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN NOT COST-SHARED

AGREEMENT PROVISIONS:

1.

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	COST SHARE RATE	ESTIMATED COST SHARE AMOUNT
$39,751.51	5.0 %	$1,987.58
$	%	$
$	%	$

Any practice cost estimated to exceed $10,000 requires bids. The Land Conservation Division (LCD) will obtain these.

2. AS A COST SHARE RECIPIENT, I AGREE TO:
   A. Install the practice(s) listed above by Dec. 31, 2016. If NOT installed by, Dec. 31, 2016 I understand that cost share funds shall be withdrawn and reallocated to other projects, unless the parties in writing agree to an extension. Nutrient Management Plan must be developed within one year of installation of other practices.
   B. Notify LCD staff immediately if I decide to withdraw from this agreement.
   C. Operate and maintain the practice(s) for a period of ten (10) years from the time of installation.
   D. Repay the full amount of cost share funds to Eau Claire County, if:
      1) The practice(s) is rendered ineffective during its ten (10) year life span due to an action or neglect on my part.
      2) A change in ownership, land use, or management occurs –unless the new owner agrees in writing to assume operation and maintenance of the practice(s) for the rest of the agreement period or it can be demonstrated a change in land use or management affecting the installed practice(s) will not result in deterioration of soil and water resources.
   E. Hire a contractor for practice(s) estimated to cost less than $10,000.
   F. Provide at least three (3) days notice to the LCD office that installation will occur.
   G. Install the practice according to the design, standards, and specifications provided by the LCD staff.
   H. Submit all receipts to the LCD office (Payment will be made after inspection by and certification of an LCD Technician that the practice(s) was installed and completed according to the design).

3. THE LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION AGREES TO:
   A. Provide technical assistance for design, construction, and inspection for the practice (s).
   B. Obtain bids for practices estimated to cost $10,000 or more.
   C. Pay the cost share rate when the receipts are received and the practices (s) is certified complete.

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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County Surveyor 839-4742
Planning & Development 839-4743
Building Inspection 839-2944

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:
LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION (address above)
QUESTIONS? CALL (715) 839-6226

COST SHARE APPLICATION FOR WELL ABANDONMENT

NAME: Emilee Mathwig
TOWNSHIP: City of Eau Claire
TELEPHONE: 715 833 1436 or 577 5621
Section #: 13 T27N R10W
LOCATION: 1739 Warden St Eau Claire WI 54703
¼, ¼ SECTION:

TYPE OF WELL (CHECK ONE): ☑ DRILLED ☐ DUG ☐ DRIVEN (SAND POINT)

DIMENSIONS OF WELL: 4" (DIAMETER) X 80' (DEPTH)

CLOSURE PLANS: MATERIAL (CHECK ONE): ☐ CHIPPED BENTONITE ☐ CONCRETE ☐ GROUT
☑ OTHER (SPECIFY): Neat cement

BAGS OF MATERIAL: 4

ESTIMATED COST: $ 375.00

(REIMBURSEMENT WILL BE 50% OF THE COST OF ABANDONMENT UP TO $400.00)

AGREEMENT FOR COST SHARING

AS A COST SHARE RECIPIENT, I AGREE TO:

1. Properly abandon the well, in accordance with specifications and provisions of the Natural Resources Chapter of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

2. Provide evidence of abandonment, including the completed Form 3300-5B, "Well/Drill Hole/Borehole Abandonment", and receipts for materials and labor.

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Eau Claire County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Planning & Development 839-4743
Building Inspection 839-2944

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:
LAND CONSERVATION DIVISION (address above)
QUESTIONS? CALL (715) 839-6226

COST SHARE APPLICATION FOR WELL ABANDONMENT

NAME John Connell TOWNSHIP Washington T27N. R8W.
TELEPHONE 715-835-7584 Section # 22
LOCATION 1632 Watt Ave Fall Creek WI 54742 ¼, ¼ SECTION

TYPE OF WELL (CHECK ONE): ☐ DRILLED ☐ DUG ☐ DRIVEN (SAND POINT)

DIMENSIONS OF WELL: _____ X _____
DIAMETER DEPTH

CLOSURE PLANS: MATERIAL (CHECK ONE): ☐ CHIPPED BENTONITE ☐ CONCRETE ☐ GROUT
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY): _____

BAGS OF MATERIAL: _____

ESTIMATED COST: $_____

(REIMBURSEMENT WILL BE 50% OF THE COST OF ABANDOMENT UP TO $400.00)

AGREEMENT FOR COST SHARING

AS A COST SHARE RECIPIENT, I AGREE TO:

1. Properly abandon the well, in accordance with specifications and provisions of the Natural Resources Chapter of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

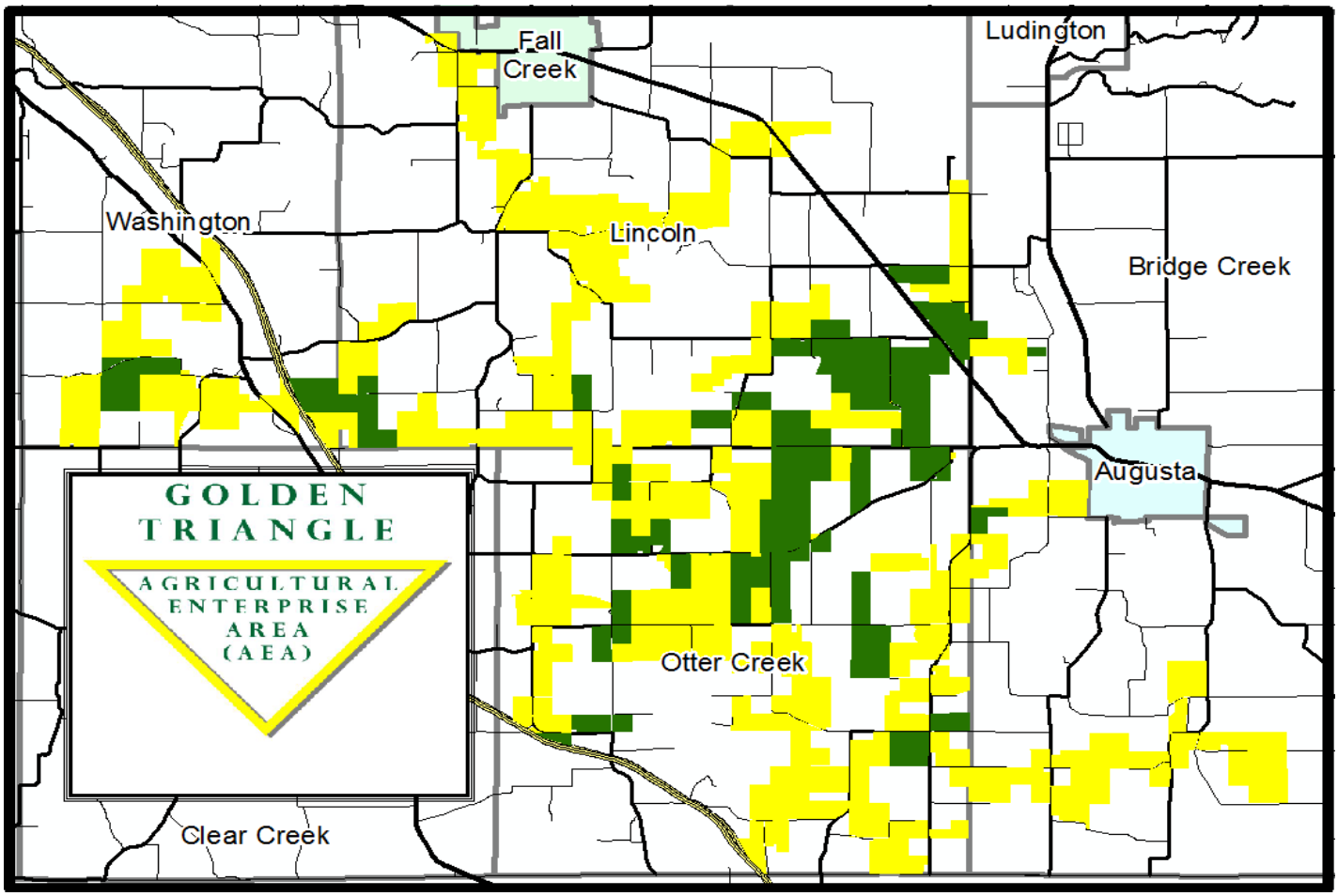
2. Provide evidence of abandonment, including the completed Form 3300-5B, "Well/Drill Hole/Borehole Abandonment", and receipts for materials and labor.

Farmland Preservation
Golden Triangle AEA
Agreement Application Summary

LCC meeting date: Monday, October 17, 2016

	Number of applications	Total Acres	Acres in AP zoning	Non-AP Acres	Increase in Tax Credit to Local Farms
Previous totals:	8	2,047.856	2,047.856	0.000	$5,119.64
This month:	13	3,388.204	3,256.117	132.087	$8,800.73
Grand Total:	21	5,436.060	5,303.973	132.087	$13,920.37

Total Acres within the AEA:	21,786
Percentage of AEA under Agreements:	24.95%



Yellow = Golden Triangle AEA
Green = Agreement Applications

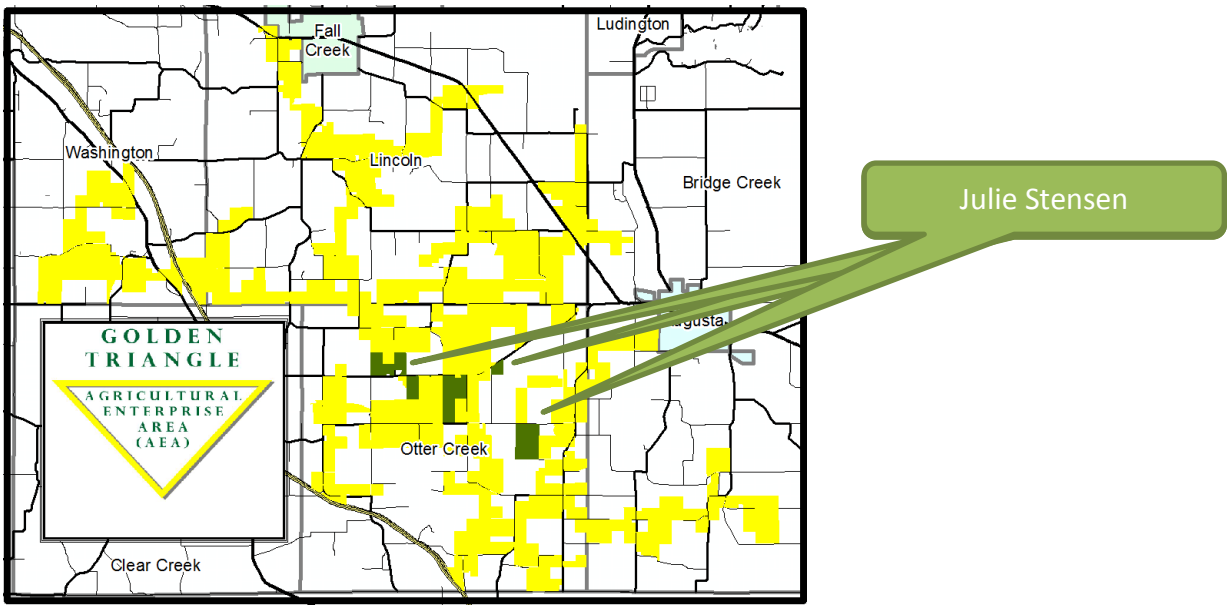
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Julie A Stensen – owner
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	784.220 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	784.220
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm was operated by the owner's husband, who recently passed away. The farm was operated as a crop farm utilizing not-till and conservation tillage methods with cover crops. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) are to maintain the farm in agricultural use.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



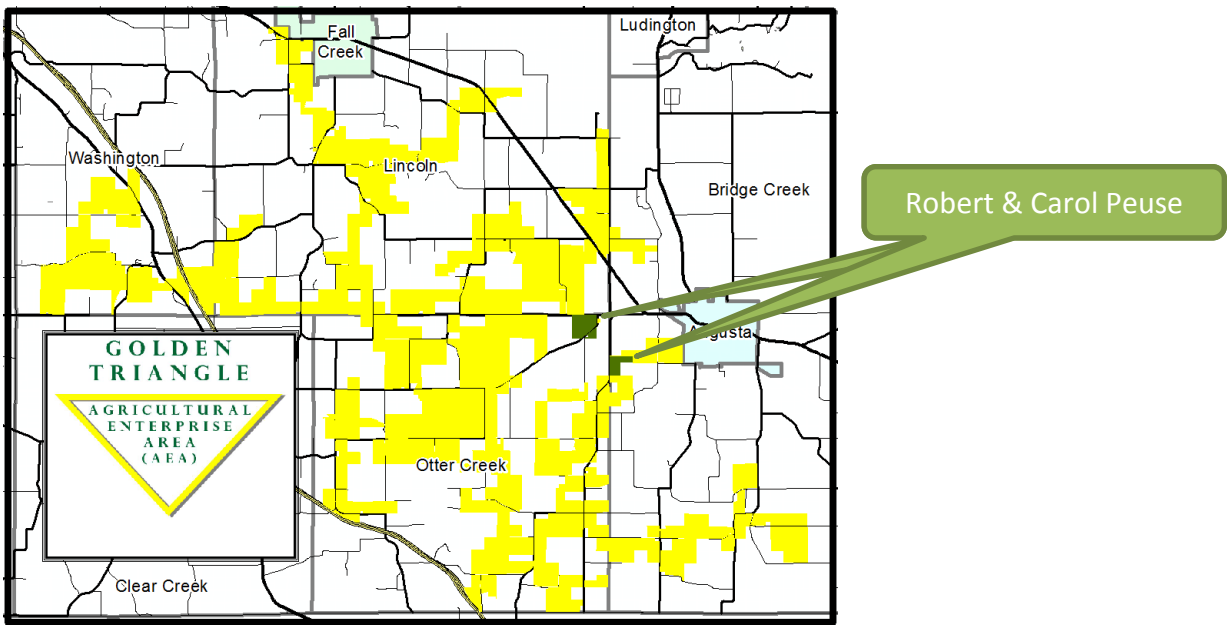
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Robert H & Carol J Peuse – owners
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	226.030 (151.130 acres Zoned AP, 74.900 unzoned, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	226.030
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by the owner and is currently a cash grain operation, with some pasture. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the existing operation.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



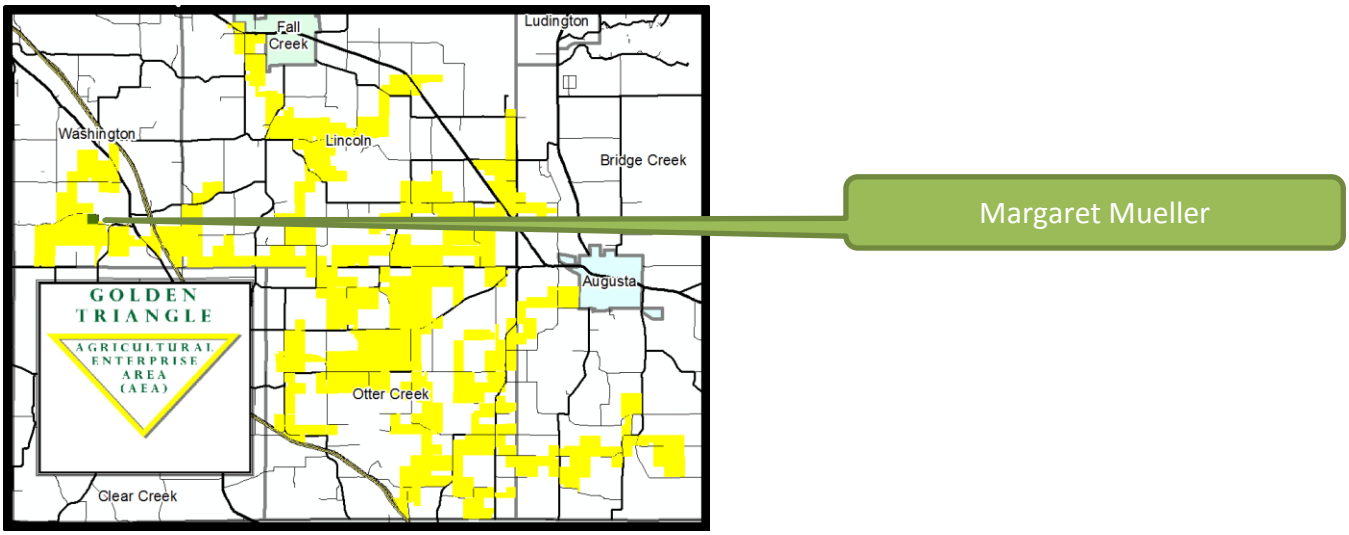
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Margaret Mueller– owner
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	39.528 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	39.528
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by Mueller Hilltop Farms, Inc. as a part of the dairy operation and includes mainly cropland and the owner's residence. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the dairy farm.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.

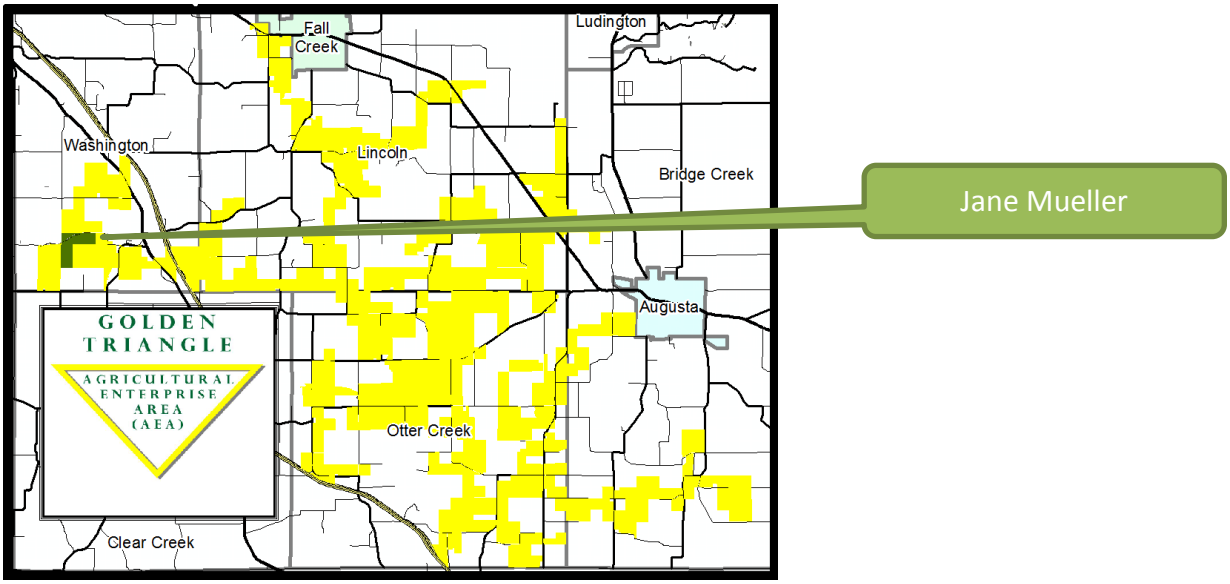


Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Jane Mueller – owner
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	200.000 (197.213 acres Zoned AP, 2.787 acres Zoned AR, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	200.000
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by Mueller Hilltop Farms, Inc. as a dairy operation. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the dairy farm.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



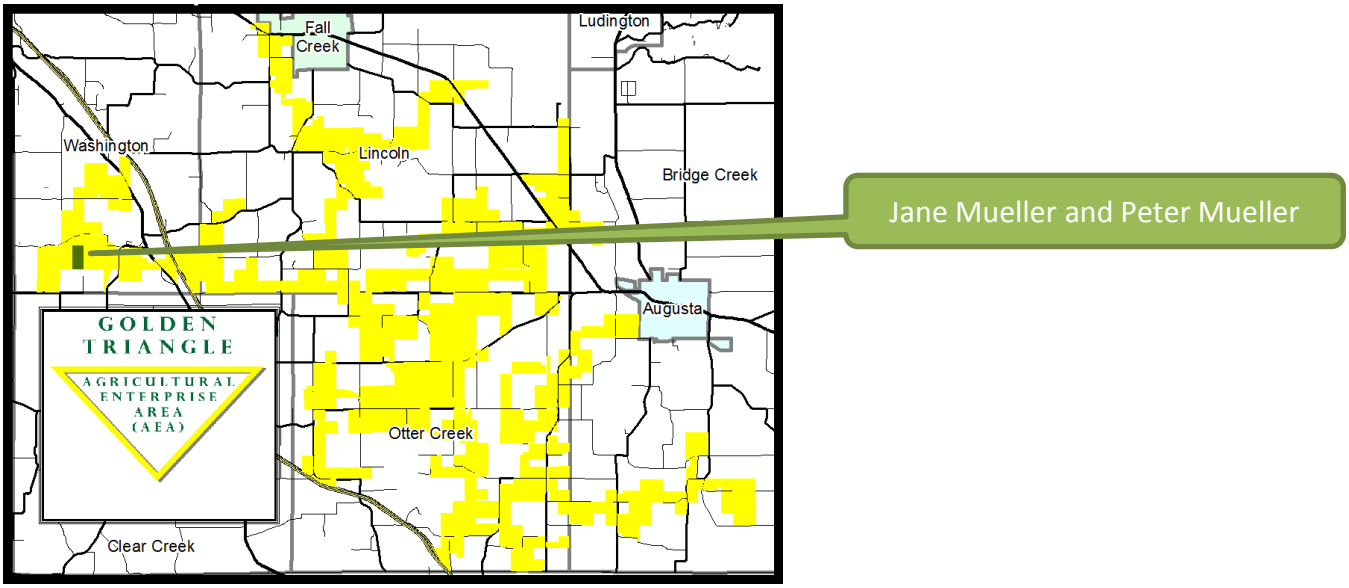
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Jane Mueller and Peter Mueller– owners
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	80.000 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	80.000
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by Mueller Hilltop Farms, Inc. as a part of the dairy operation and includes mainly cropland. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the dairy farm.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



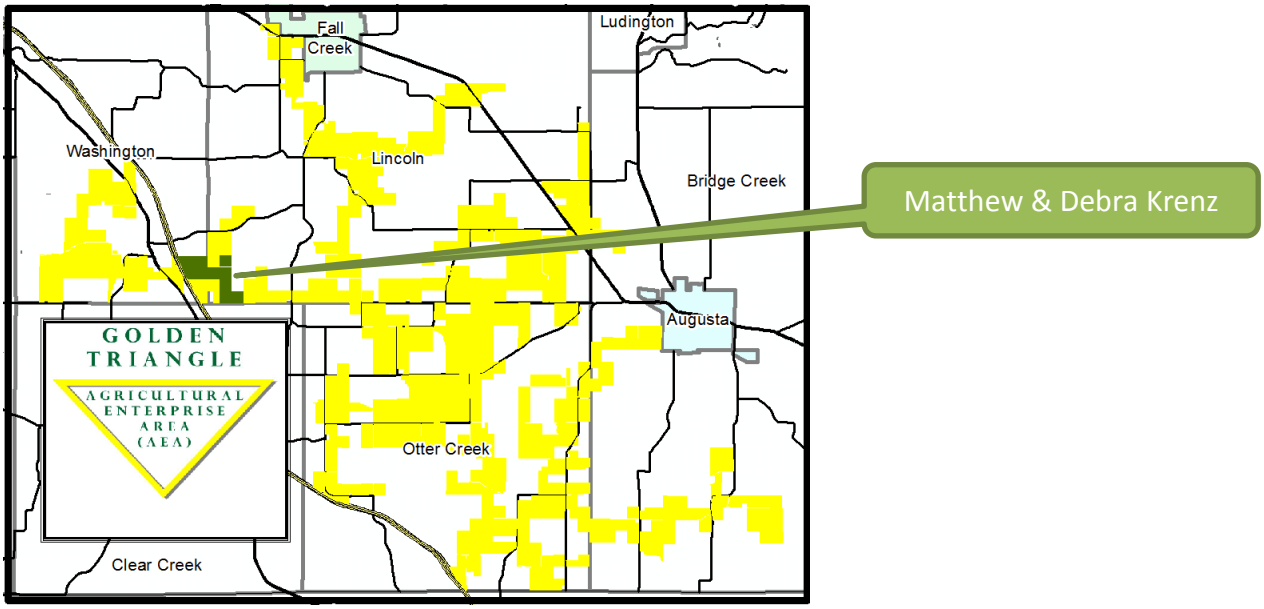
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Matthew D & Debra A Krenz – owners (2 applications required)
Life Estate holder:	Linda E Krenz & Donald F Krenz, Jr. (on a 40 acre parcel)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	373.660 and 40.000 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	413.660
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by the owner and is currently a dairy operation. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the dairy operation.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.

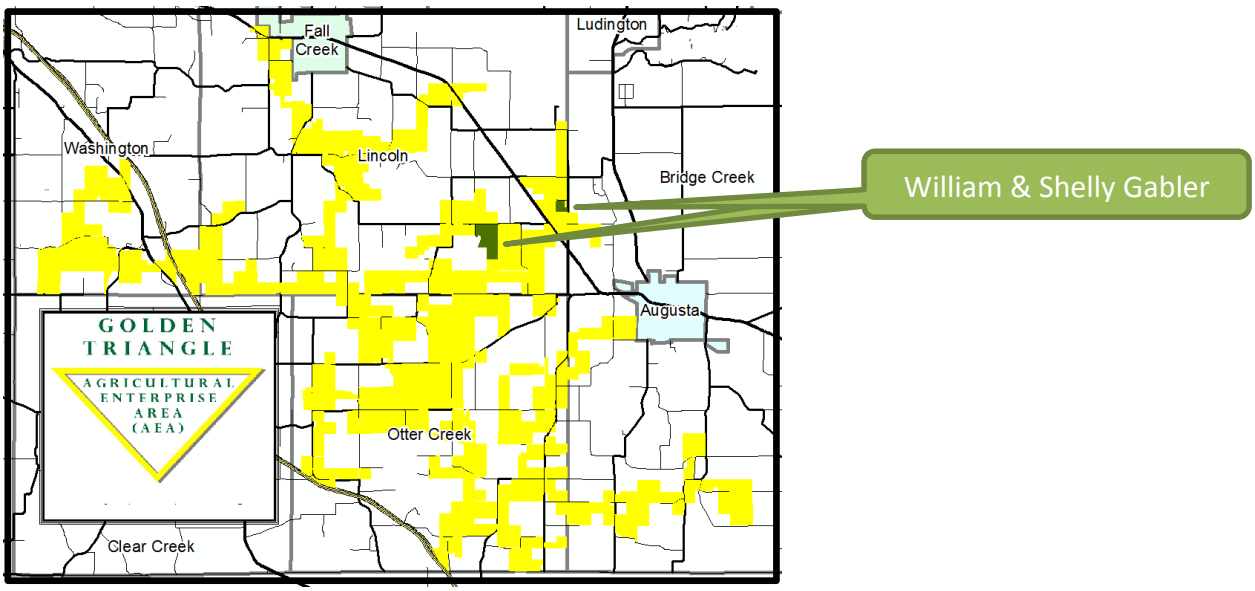


Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	William And Shelly Gabler – owner
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	221.209 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	221.209
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by the owner, and includes cropland for the dairy and some beef, pasture, and some woodland. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the farm in dairy.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



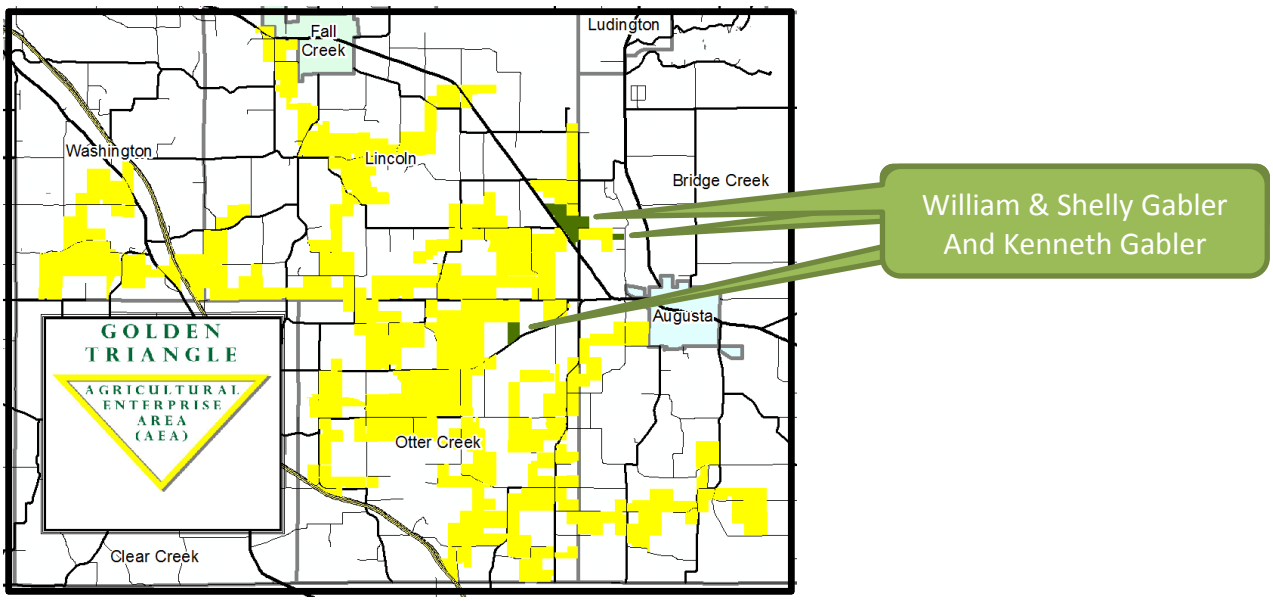
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	William & Shelly Gabler, and Kenneth Gabler – owners
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	296.570 (242.170 acres Zoned AP, 54.400 acres unzoned, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	296.570
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm is operated by the Gablers, and includes mainly cropland and pasture. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the farm land in its current use.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



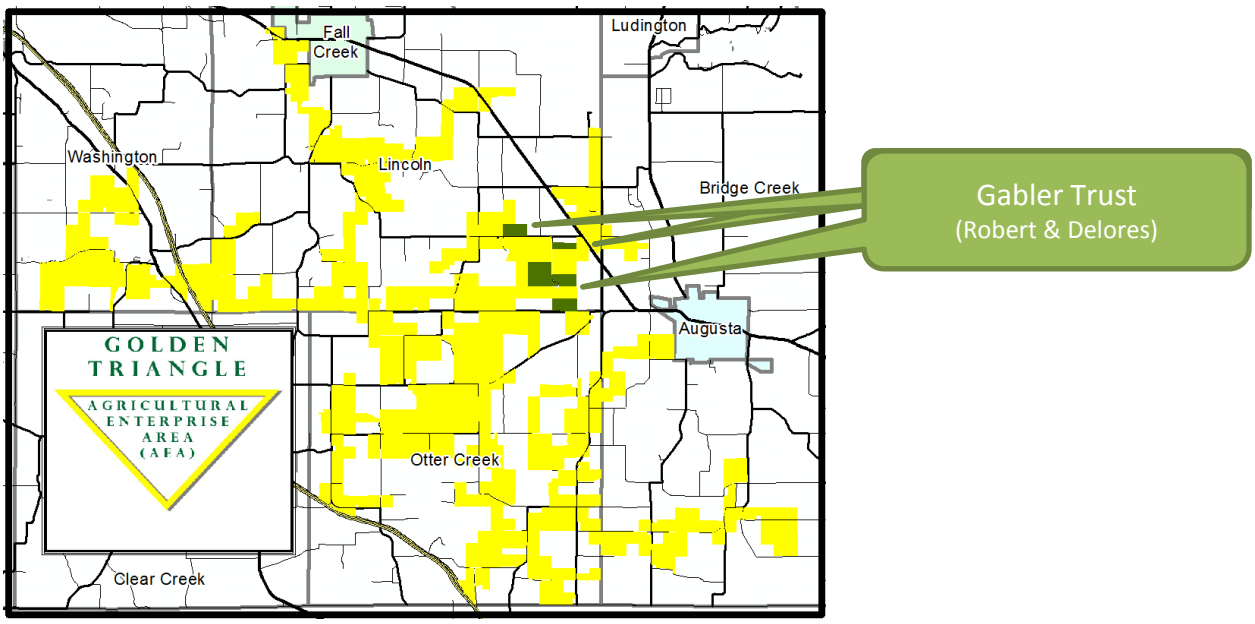
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	The Gabler Trust (Robert W Gabler & Delores J Gabler, Trustees) – owner
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	439.947 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	439.947
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by the Gabler Family, and includes the dairy, cropland, pasture, and some woodland. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the farm in dairy.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



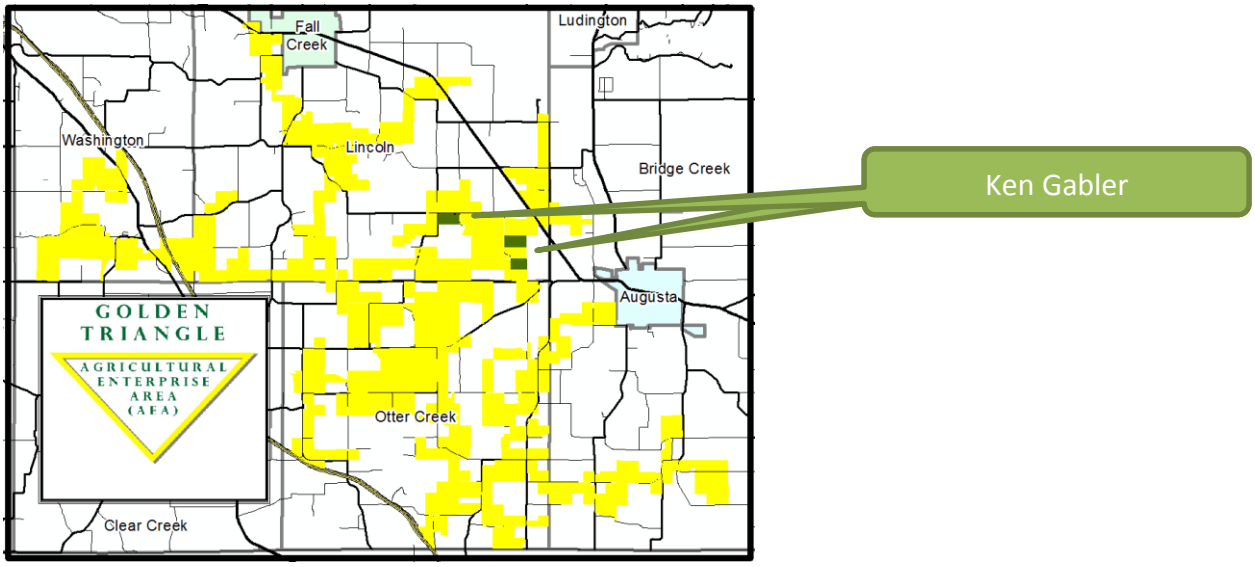
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Ken Gabler – owner
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	216.700 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	216.700
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by the owner, and includes cropland for the dairy, pasture, and some woodland. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the farm in dairy.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



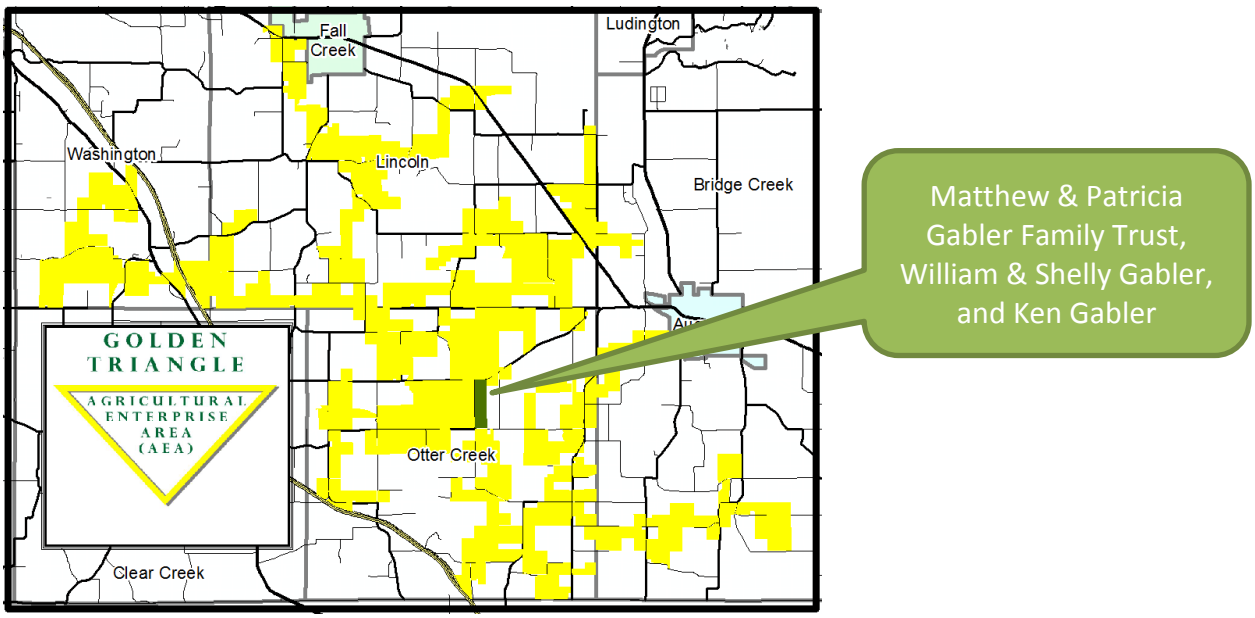
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Matthew and Patricia Gabler Family Trust, William & Shelly Gabler, and Ken Gabler – owners
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	160.000 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	160.000
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by the Gablers, and includes cropland, pasture which is rented out, and some woodland. There are no farm buildings. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the farm in agricultural use.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



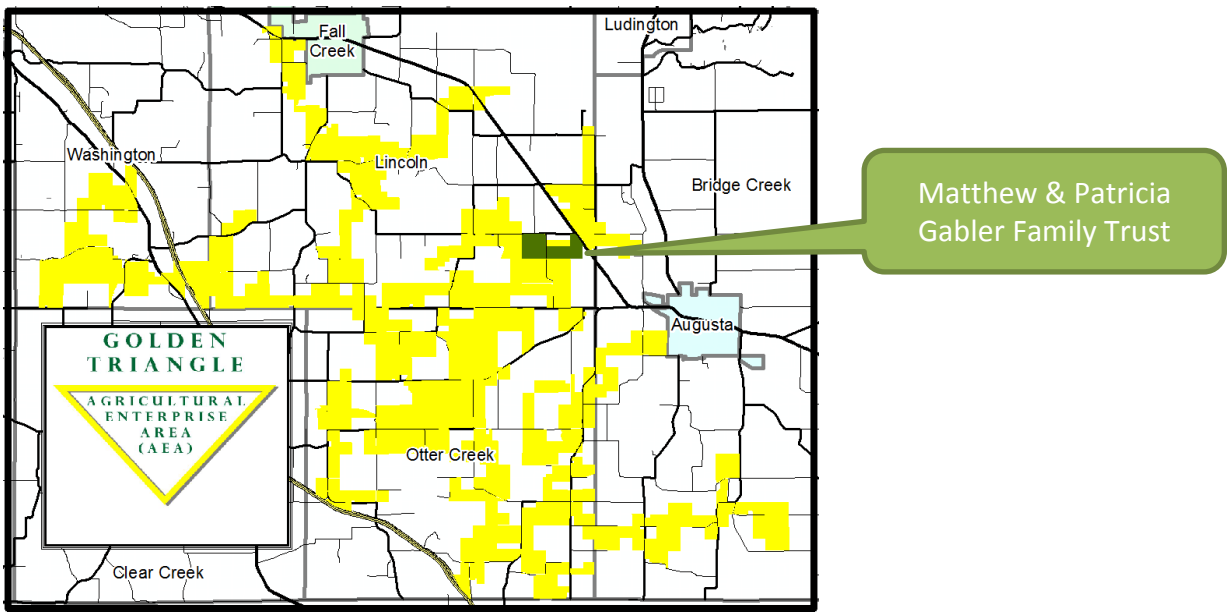
Farmland Preservation Golden Triangle AEA Agreement Application
Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division Staff Recommendation

Staff Contact:	Greg Leonard, Conservation Planner-Agronomist
Date:	October 2016
Applicant:	Matthew and Patricia Gabler Family Trust – owner
Life Estate holder:	(none)
Land Contract holder:	(none)
Total farm acres:	310.340 (Zoned AP, all within the AEA)
Acreage of application:	310.340
Excluded acres:	(none)

Summary: This farm operated by Matthew and Patricia Gabler, and includes cropland, pasture and some woodland. The farm residence includes a personal wind turbine and personal solar panels for electrical generation. Plans during the term of the Farmland Preservation Agreement (15 years) include maintaining the farm in agricultural use.

Staff Recommendation: This farm is in compliance with the State's Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, is within the Farmland Preservation area of the Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan, and is within the Golden Triangle AEA.

Staff recommends approval of the application.



Eau Claire River Watershed

Plan Overview

D. PLAN TENETS

Early in the planning process, the Coalition identified the following guiding tenets for this watershed planning effort:

- While this plan's focus is on phosphorus and sedimentation, the plan should be comprehensive and address other water quality issues, including fisheries, habitat, wetlands, and invasives.

- The plan should address water quality for streams within the entire watershed, and not just the Eau Claire River and on major lakes.
- The top-down, regulatory-based approaches of the past have not worked. A new, social-based approach is needed that emphasizes civic leadership, soil health, and the economic value of our surface waters.
- The plan needs to have honest and realistic goals and strategies.
- Incorporate, reference, and support existing water quality plans from the watershed; do not repeat them.
- This should be a citizen-led planning effort. The vision, goals, and plan recommendations should largely come from the ideas of watershed residents. Coalition members were invited to take an active role in writing the plan.
- The Coalition should have a long-term role in helping to implement the plan. The Coalition can grow over time and everyone has a role in helping to build the Coalition.
- As a society, we have helped create the current problems over many decades. Everyone has a responsibility to help address our shared water quality issues. The public sector cannot do it alone; partnerships and collaboration are vital. Positive change will take time and effort involving the entire watershed communtiy.

Page 26 of 59

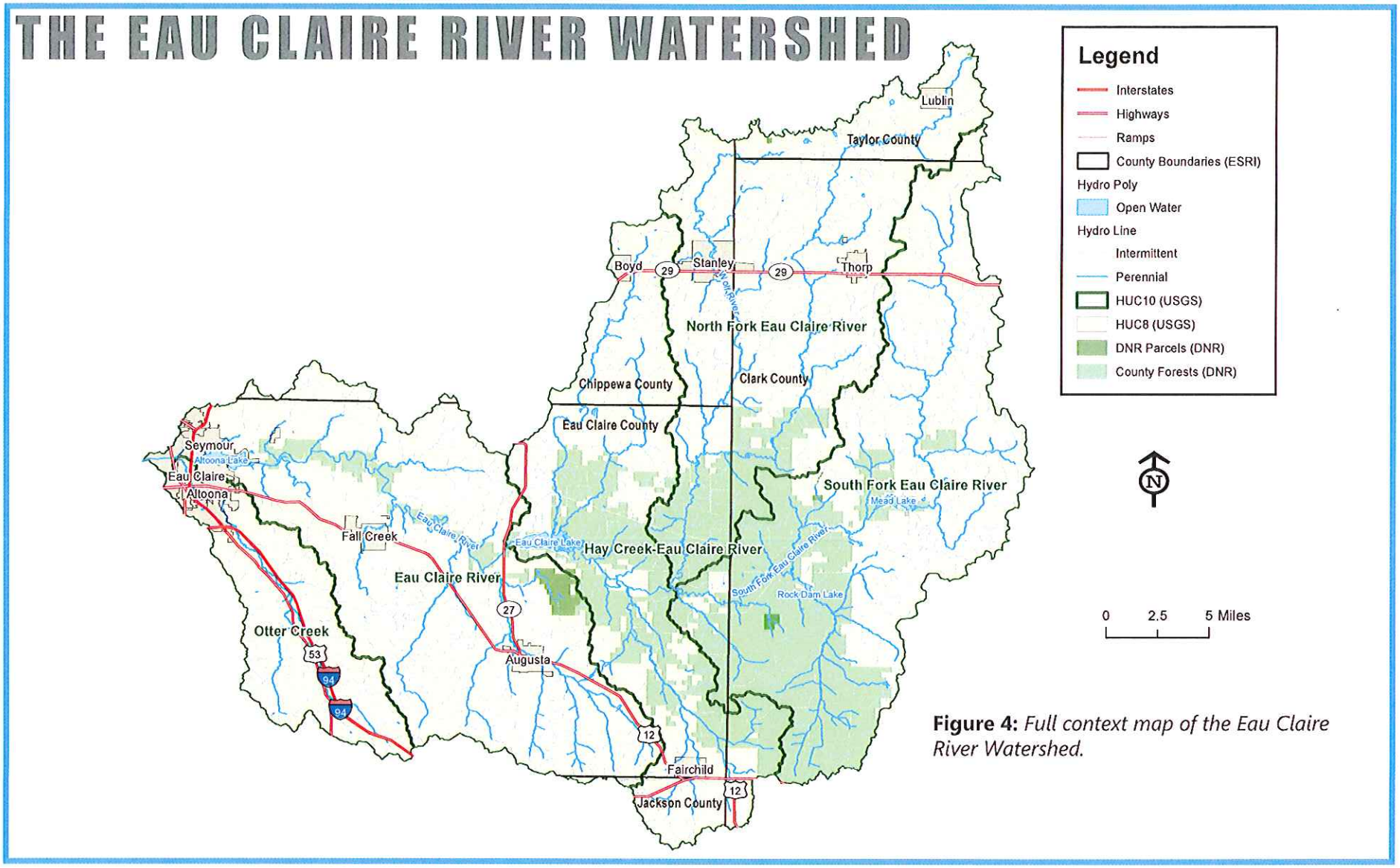


Figure 4: *Full context map of the Eau Claire River Watershed.*

THE VALUE OF CLEAN WATER

Clean water is a precious resource. During community survey efforts from across west-central Wisconsin, area residents have consistently identified groundwater and surface water as the top local resources deserving of the highest levels of protection.

Residents, businesses, and communities of the Eau Claire River Watershed rely upon our surface waters for agriculture, industry, utilities, flood control, fire protection, outdoor recreation, tourism, aesthetic beauty, and wildlife habitat. And, as discussed previously, our surface waters are inexorably linked with our groundwater and drinking water systems. A healthy water cycle is critical to life and our ecosystem.

So, what is the real cost of pollutant loading, erosion, and the loss of clean water on our streams, rivers, and lakes? To date, no such studies have been performed for the Eau Claire River Watershed, making it difficult to quantify such impacts. We know that degraded water quality (e.g., algae blooms, poor fishing, aesthetics) can make our surface waters unappealing for homeowners and for recreation. Blue-Green Algae and E. Coli have the potential to cause serious illness or even death.

Some of the real costs of erosion and poor water quality include...

- **Increased Runoff, Pollutant Loading and Lower Agricultural Yields -** *Healthy soils means healthy waters. Land management practices that contribute to soil health improves the infiltration of precipitation and reduces run-off, thereby keeping the top soil in place, decreasing pollutant loading and increasing agricultural yields over the long term.*

- **Lower Property Values (and Tax Base) -** *Our lakes and larger rivers, in particular, are popular for residential development. But, a shoreland property has less value to potential homebuyers if algae blooms (or other pollutants) prevent fishing and swimming during a large part of the summer or if sediment loading is limiting where you can boat.*

- **Decreased Tourism -** *Tourism and spending by seasonal homeowners are a significant part of the economy within the watershed. Tourists are attracted by clean water for fishing, paddlesports, boating, swimming/tubing, and aesthetic beauty. This is reflected by the fact that the most of the county parks within the watershed are located along the rivers and lakes.*

- **Taxpayer and Opportunity Costs -** *As a society, we are spending millions each year in "clean-up costs" due to pollutant loading. These costs range from education, monitoring, and enforcement to algae removal, aeration systems, and dredging. Greater emphasis is needed to address the root causes of water quality pollution.*

Figure 41: *Potential for the Improvement of Erosion Vulnerability in the Eau Claire River Watershed*

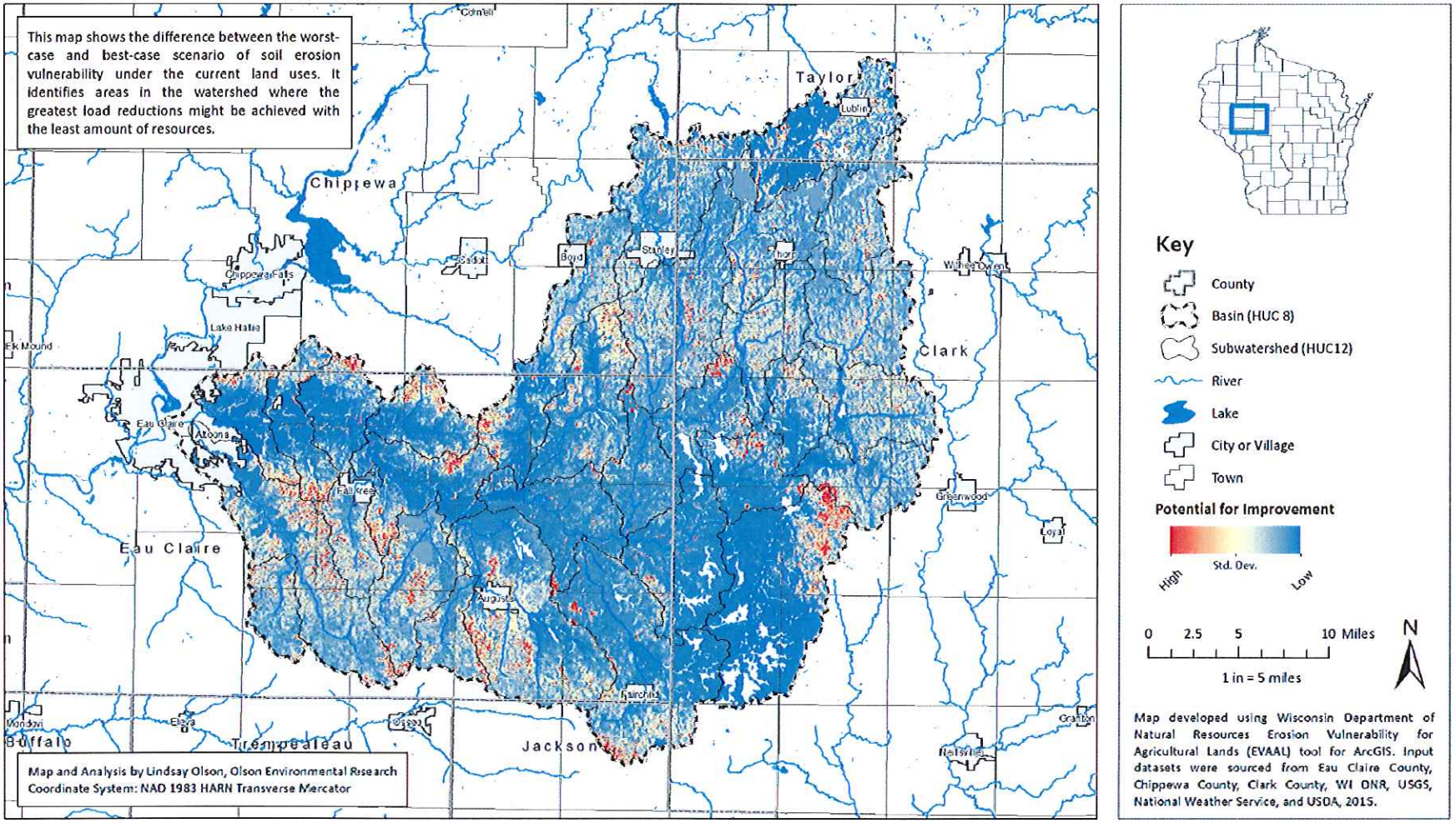
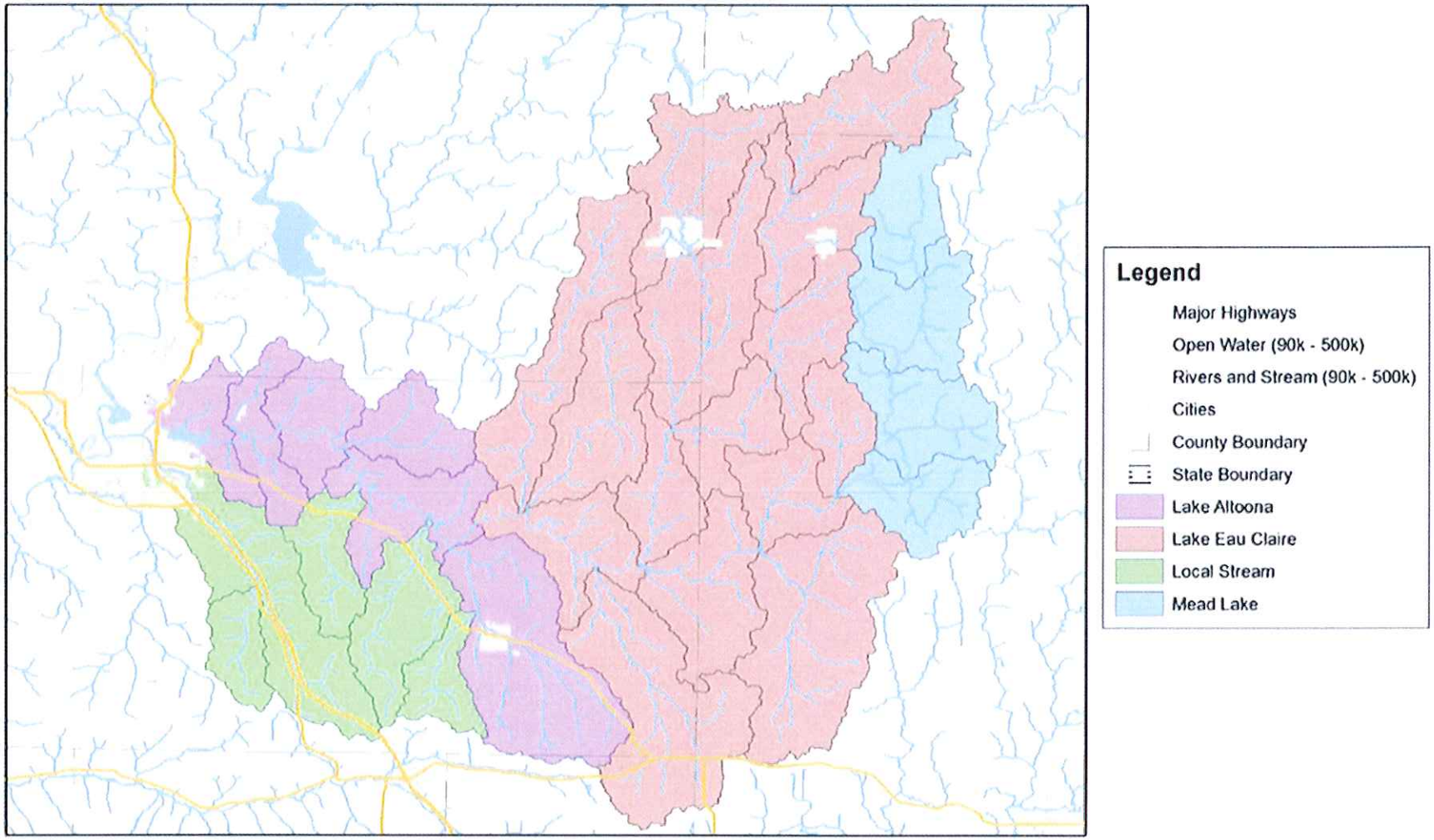


Figure 44: *Waterbody Driving Reduction Goals in the Eau Claire River Watershed.*



The top eight general strategy approaches as prioritized by the Coalition during the survey were:

- Tangible, "boots-on-the-ground" projects and conservation measures that reduce runoff and pollutant loading are the most important Watershed Strategy recommendations.
- All residents in the watershed should understand why healthy soils are important to water quality.
- The Watershed Strategy should emphasize education and voluntary efforts, instead of regulations and enforcement.
- Educating elected officials so the water quality is priority is critical to reaching our Watershed Strategy goals.
- An annual Eau Claire River Watershed event should be established, similar to the Red Cedar Conference, to provide networking, educational, and outreach opportunities.
- The Watershed Strategy should recommend forming one or more farmer-led councils that can work with landowners to help prioritize water quality projects and get them completed on private properties.
- A formal, comprehensive streambank erosion inventory of the watershed is needed so that projects and resources can be better prioritized.
- Demonstrations and pilot projects are needed within the watershed to show the economic and environmental value of good practices.

The survey also suggests that the Watershed Strategy should address water quality threats in the following order of priority (top 3 responses only):

1. Subsheds and areas with high pollutant loading, high potential for improvement, and where landowners/ communities are most willing to implement BMPs.
2. The primary sources of phosphorus and sedimentation, including runoff from agricultural lands, shorelands, and unstable streambanks.
3. Subsheds and areas with the highest potential for improvement.

The Coalition also identified the following stakeholders as the top five priorities for education, outreach, and as potential future Coalition partners:

1. Farmers, Agricultural Agencies, Agri-Businesses, and Forestry Businesses
2. Local, State, & Federal Elected Officials and Decision Makers
3. Residents in Rural Towns and Villages
4. Non-Farmer Landowners with Leased Cropland and Managed Forest
5. Shoreland Owners

Page 39 of 99

Eau Claire River Watershed

Implementation Strategies

SECTION VII. EAU CLAIRE RIVER WATERSHED VISION & OVERALL GOALS

B. VISION STATEMENT

The rivers, lakes, streams, and waterways of the Eau Claire River Watershed are valued resources worthy of long-term management to improve water quality and to maintain healthy fisheries, wildlife habitat, and soil health.

This vision will be achieved by watershed residents working together to promote good land use practices, the economic benefits of good land and water management, and our shared responsibility for the problems facing our water resources.

C. OVERALL WATERSHED GOALS

The following overall goals expand upon the direction provided in the vision statement. As a bottom-up Watershed Strategy, these overall goals have many similarities with the goals of the different lake management plans within the watershed.

Due to the complex, inter-connected nature of surface waters, one single action, best practice, or educational effort can address multiple goals. As such, it was not the Coalition's intent to structure the target objectives and action plans under individual goals.

Soil Health & Water Quality (Phosphorus & Sedimentation) Goal

Protect and restore water quality through good soil health and by reducing sediment, nutrient delivery, and other pollutant loading from point and non-point sources to the rivers, lakes, streams, and waterways of the Eau Claire River Watershed.

Soil Health & Water Quality Sub-Goals

- Reduce phosphorus loading, as well as the occurrence and intensity of blue-green algae blooms.
- Reduce erosion and sediment loading from both shoreline and upland sources.
- Encourage land management practices that promote good soil health and decrease the speed and velocity of heavy stormwater runoff and flooding events that greatly contribute to sedimentation and bank erosion.
- Reducing phosphorus and sediment loading are entwined, are equally important, and are the surface water quality priorities for the watershed.
- By emphasizing sedimentation and phosphorus reduction and good soil health within this Watershed Strategy, there is an expectation that other facets of water quality (e.g., habitat, recreation, bacteria, flooding) will also be improved, though the target objectives for these other facets may be less measurable within the Watershed Strategy.

Fisheries & Habitat Goal

Maintain healthy surface waters and adjacent shoreland habitats that provide a visually appealing natural environment and support diverse, healthy, and resilient native communities of plants, fish, and other animals. Efforts will be made to prevent the introduction or expansion of invasive and exotic species, and remove these species when possible.

Recreation Goal

The surface waters and shoreland areas within the watershed should provide safe, diverse recreational opportunities (e.g., fishing, swimming, boating, paddle sports, birdwatching) that are healthy, safe, attractive, and accessible for everyone. Improve and maintain the connectivity of waterways and channels when feasible and ecologically appropriate.

Note: *Clean water, good fisheries, and healthy habitat are essential to our recreation goal. For purposes of this Watershed Strategy, the action plan recommendations related to this Recreational Goal are principally water quality, fisheries, and habitat related. Other recreational issues, such as access, use conflicts, and amenities, are better addressed through individual lake management plans, park master plans, and municipal/county outdoor recreation plans.*

Education, Civic Engagement & Capacity Building Goal

Increase the awareness of the public and elected officials of the economic and ecological importance of good soil health and surface water quality and how good land and water practices benefit everyone.

Actively engage the citizens of the watershed and develop sustainable, meaningful relationships between residents and stakeholders to restore and protect soil health and water quality. Build community capacity for collaborative decision-making and civic governance to advance the vision and goals of this Watershed Strategy.

Plan & Policy Coordination Goal

Recognize and support the recommendations, plans, and activities of lake districts, lake associations, county land and water conservation offices, and other organizations advocating for water quality improvement within the watershed. This Watershed Strategy should complement, not duplicate, these other planning efforts, while encouraging local and state policies that support the vision and goals of this effort.

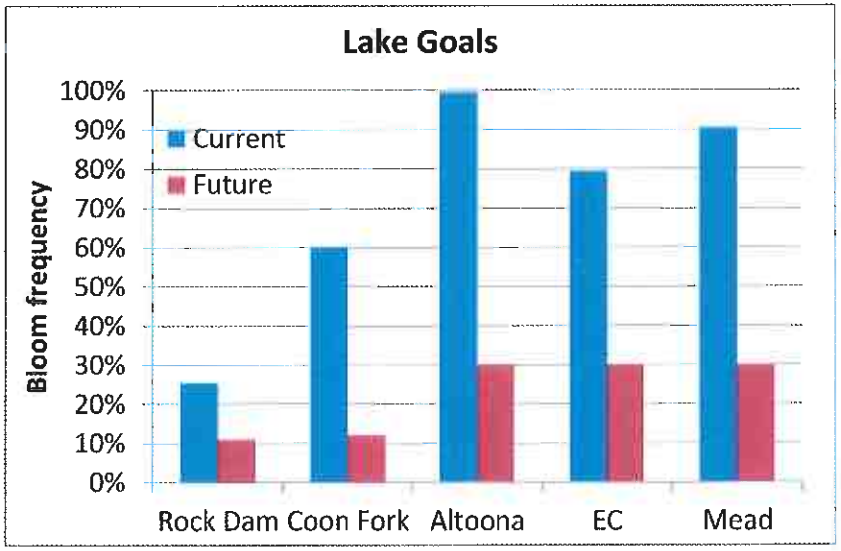
Collaboration & Shared Responsibility Goal

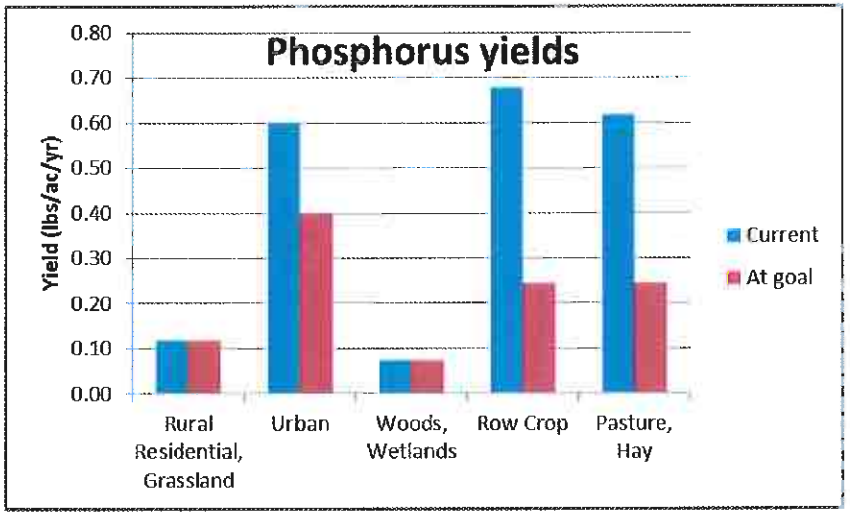
Promote and nurture collaborative relationships between watershed stakeholder groups, municipalities, counties, and other units of government to educate elected officials and create an atmosphere of shared responsibility that will ensure the availability of resources and political support to achieve the vision and goals of this Watershed Strategy.

Significant decreases in algae bloom frequency must also be realized at our lakes in order to meet the overall watershed target objective as represented by this chart. These lake goals are built into the HUC-12 reduction goals in the previous maps and table.

During the SWAT modeling and setting these goals, WDNR did attempt to consider current conditions and activities at these lakes. Over the time, the implications of actions at the lakes, such as the aeration system at Lake Eau Claire, will need to be evaluated and may influence these targets.

Another way to consider what will be required to meet the target objectives is the average phosphorus yield per acre by land use as represented in the second chart. Significant decreases in per acre phosphorus loading will be required in urban (developed areas), row crop, and pasture lands in order to meet the watershed-wide objectives. However, it must also be kept in mind that about 41 percent of the acreage in the watershed is row crop and pasture, while only about 1 percent is urban. So, there is far greater opportunity to the significantly reduce total phosphorus loading from our agricultural lands.





charts based on 2009 SWAT Analysis, with Otter Creek watershed added

C. IMPLEMENTATION COST ESTIMATES

In addition to timelines and project schedules, it is important for the Plan Implementation Team to consider and monitor the potential costs for implementing the plan. The action plan recommendations throughout this Watershed Strategy can implemented and funded in a variety of ways and new opportunities arise over time. As such, specific lead parties and funding resources are not identified for all recommendations. The Plan Implementation Team will bring stakeholders together to determine how best to align plan recommendations with available people, technical, and funding resources.

The following cost summary provides an opportunity to help further prioritize potential activities, explore cost-sharing partnerships, and seek out needed resources. As a 9-Key Element Plan, cost estimates are only provided for those key activities that support the phosphorus-reduction target objectives and may require significant funding support. The assumptions are subject to change based on changing costs, opportunities, and resources. As discussed during the planning process, the Plan Implementation Team will look for ways to creatively leverage and target resources, rather than the various watershed stakeholders independently competing for grant funding. Such targeting is important so that our lake groups, communities, and other stakeholders continue to have access to

The following is a list of grant programs potentially available for plan implementation that are funded in whole or part under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act for non-point source pollution:

- Targeted Runoff Management Grant Program
- Notice of Discharge Grant Program
- Lake Protection and Management Grant Program
- River Protection Grant Program
- Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Grant Program
- DATCP Soil Water Resource Management Grant Program
- NRCS financial assistance grants and programs
- EPA Nonpoint Source Related Funds
- Water Quality Trading
- Adaptive Management

Page 37 of 99

those funding resources they've relied upon in the past for projects that are not eligible for Section 319-funded grant programs, while targeting Section 319-funded programs for our non-point source (NPS) pollution initiatives.

Unique to this Watershed Strategy is the comprehensive list of water quality grant and assistance resources included in Appendix B. In preparation of this plan, no similar list could be found. While many of the action plan strategies in Sections VIII, IX, and X. identified key resources, the Plan Implementation Team and other lead entities should also consider the resources in Appendix B to maximize and leverage available resources.

Human Capital Cost Estimate

For successful implementation of this Watershed Strategy, the most critically needed resource is people or human capital; that is why these costs are listed first. We need "boots on the ground" to work with farmers and landowners, to development and implement outreach activities, to engage stakeholder groups, to provide technical support, and to coordinate other activities in support of the vision and goals of this plan. As such, the following estimate is in support of the recommendation in multiple plan sections.

Recommendation/Cost Description	Assumptions	10-Yr Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources
1. Staff hours totaling approximately 6 to 10 FTE positions will be added incrementally over the 10-year period, primarily county-based as part of LCDs, to work on implementation of BMPs, provide technical support, engineering, coordination of farmer-led councils, and other outreach, education, and engagement activities.	6 to 10 FTEs x $75,000 to $100,000 per year; not all positions may be F.T.E. in all counties	$450,000 to $1,000,000	Staffing will likely come from a variety of sources, including counties, State, and Federal agencies. Potential funding sources for the 1-3 year priorities are identified later in this sub-section, so of which may include staff hours.

The staffing hours in the above represents a total of six to ten full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, but will involve more than six to ten individuals. For example, one to two full-time positions may be needed in Eau Claire County and Clark County, where the bulk of the watershed lies and have active lake associations/districts, but less staff time may be required for this project in the other three counties that have less geographic area (and fewer farms) within the Eau Claire River Watershed. The staffing estimate also assumes one to two FTE positions, by year 10, providing support to farmer-led councils and related farmer initiatives (e.g., demonstration projects, soil health outreach, 1-on-1 consultation) across the watershed, possibly provided with UW-Extension support. The equivalent of another FTE position may be required just to coordinate monitoring, BMP tracking, and related reporting.

Not all six to ten FTE positions require the hiring of new staff, but could include a portion of salaries of existing County Land Conservation Departments. And in some cases, these person hours can be provided by contracts and, possibly, Coalition volunteers and stakeholder groups. The six to ten FTE positions would focus on the soil health, water quality, education, and civic leadership strategies and monitoring in Sections VIII and X; additional people resources may be needed to carry out the fisheries and habitat recommendations in Section IX. As stated previously, the ability to fund these positions and other plan recommendations will be dependent upon the availability of resources.

Education, Citizen Engagement, and Civic Leadership Estimates for Recommended 1-3 Year Priorities

The following cost estimates are for those 1-3 year priorities in the previous implementation schedule summary.

Recommendation/Cost Description	Assumptions	10-Yr Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources
1. Form Plan Implementation Team	This task is underway. Will require 1-on-1 contacts by Team members to grow the Team.	$0	Supported and organized by Coalition members. LCDs to take a lead role.
2. Provide a coordinator position for the Plan Implementation Team.	$10,000 to $25,000 per year x 3 years	$30,000 to $75,000	WDNR River Grant for 1-2 yrs; potentially seek corporate or foundation dollars longer-term, perhaps as part of a special watershed initiative
3. Plan Implementation Team should meet with CLUE to discuss farmer survey results.	Existing staff time.	$0	none required
4. Encourage Plan Implementation Team members to participate in or host civic leadership, capacity building, team building, and 1-on-1 peer networking educational workshops.	Potentially no cost, unless hosting a speaker or covering registration fees	$0-$2,500	Team members. Agency budgets.
5. Increase 1-on-1 contacts and networking opportunities.	Primarily staff/volunteer time.		see Human Capital Cost Estimate
6. Provide video/materials on economic importance of good soil health.	Pursue as a student-assisted project.	$5,000 to $15,000	UW-EC, CVTC (student time); private foundations, WI River Alliance, EPA Environ Educ. Grant
7. Develop recognition program. Recognize conservation farms and good practices.	Could vary, but could also grow over time.	$5,000 start-up; $250 per year	Business sponsor and/or private foundations

Page 99 of 99

Recommendation/Cost Description	Assumptions	10-Yr Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources
8. Encourage farmer-led councils or groups.	Primarily staff/volunteer time.	see Human Capital Cost Estimate. Councils are eligible for max. $20,000 in DATCP grant funds for projects.	
9. Actively engage municipalities and elected officials.	Primarily volunteer time and staff time of existing agencies.	$0	Can be addressed through Plan Imp. Team (or work group) and partners, but may require additional Human Capital depending upon approach.
10. Conduct additional sociological surveys.	Based on costs from the Red Cedar Watershed, this activity can range from $100,000 to $220,000, depending on the scope.	$100,000 to $220,000	WDNR River or Lake Grants. Private foundations (e.g., McKnight). UW-Extension, Universities/National Science Foundation
11. Develop educational materials and conduct outreach.	Could vary widely, but maximize use of existing resources and materials. Can be combined with #12 below.	varies by activity	Existing agencies, partners, and material including Rain to Rivers and volunteers. EPA Environ Educ. Grant. Potential student support. See Appendix B for other ideas.
12. Increase public awareness of opportunities and BMPs	Could vary widely, but maximize use of existing resources and materials. Can be combined with #11 above.	varies by activity; a small allowance should be considered during Years 1-3	Existing agency and materials. Volunteers. Rain to Rivers. EPA Environ Educ. Grant. See Appendix B for other ideas.
13. Conduct annual watershed event, or become part of a regional event.	The Red Cedar Conference costs about $18,000 per year.	$10,000 to $18,000 for a sizable event	Xcel Energy Foundation, WDNR River Grant, or similar for first year or two. Sponsors and registration fees can self-support thereafter.
14. Implement soil health demonstration and pilot projects. Acquire equipment for sharing, demonstrations, etc.	$5,000 to $20,000 per demonstration/pilot project. Farmer-led councils may use DATCP grants for additional projects. $75,000 to $150,000 for equipment.	$15,000 to $60,000 for projects. $150,000 to $300,000 for equipment	Section 319 grant funds. Farmer-Led Council (DATCP grant) projects. DATCP Nutrient Mgmt Education Grant. River Country RC&D. Also work with ag lenders/cooperatives to explore cost-sharing of equipment purchases.

Soil Health & Water Quality Action Plan Cost Estimates for BMPs

The Current and 10-Year BMP Acreage Estimates by HUC-12 table in Section VIII.C. identified the primary BMPs that could be implemented over the next 10-years to achieve our 10-year indicators. As shown in the table below, these BMPs have different cost share estimates based on the NRCS rates for the EQIP program; some counties and agencies may offer additional incentives. In addition, the table below shows the projected total acres added and a cost estimate for each BMP over the next 10-years, along with the STEPL BMP phosphorus-reduction efficiency factor as discussed in Section VIII.C.

Best Management Practice	BMP Cost Share (rounded)	10-Yr BMP Acreage Added	Estimated Total 10-Yr Cost-Share per BMP	BMP Phosphorus Efficiency
Contour Farming	$7 per acre	14,670	$102,690	-55%
Diversion	$2 to $66 per foot	0	$0	-30%
Filter Strips (grassed waterways determined per foot)	$442 per acre	3,715	$1,642,030	-75%
Reduced Tillage (based on no till, strip-till)	$15 per acre	26,316	$394,740	-45%
Streambank Stabilization & Fencing (varies widely; cost shares shown are examples)	$44/cu yard for stream barb and up to $38/foot for riprap	2,357 ac to benefit from this BMP	feet or cubic yard estimated not avail.	-75%
Cover Crops (one species)	$46 per acre	15,930	$732,780	-32%
Nutrient Management	$10 to $50 per acre	26,149	$261,490 to $1.3 mil	-28%
Managed Rotational Pasture	$22 to $53 per acre	932	$20,504 to $49,396	-34%
Forest Dry Seeding (hardwood, direct)	$430 per acre	3,010	$1,294,300	not available
Replacing Failing Septic Systems	60% of $5,000 to $15,000/ site	275 systems	$825,000 to $2.5 mil	not available
		Total	**$5.3 to $8.0 mil**	

The above is one scenario of what it could be required financially to adopt the BMPs needed to attain our 10-year "goal", if a traditional cost-sharing approach is used based on historic economic practices. However, we can meet our 10-year phosphorus reduction goal in other ways and the final solution may look quite different, based largely on:

- As discussed previously, some practices offer a more cost-effective and cost-efficient approach in terms of how much phosphorus load reduction can be achieved per dollars spent on the ground. In some cases, it may not be feasible to provide incentive payments or

other financial "carrots" for all BMPs given limited resources. The Coalition has recommended that efforts should target the adoption of those BMPs with the highest phosphorus-reduction efficiencies to get the "most bang for our buck." For example, the large expense of replacing a failing septic systems compared to the anticipated low reduction in total pounds of phosphorus loading of other BMPs suggests that a septic-replacement initiative might be a lower priority, but it can have an important role in demonstrating that everyone is doing their part. In short, BMP efficiencies should be considered as discussed in Section VIII.C.

- The BMPs in the above scenario are distributed throughout the watershed. The Coalition has recommended that efforts should be made to especially target those HUC-12s with the highest potential for phosphorus runoff and the highest potential for improvement as suggested by the modelling results in Section IV.
- The Coalition has also recommended that the BMPs, at least initially, should target those landowners who are most willing to adopt BMPs. Such attitudes can vary by HUC-12 as demonstrated in Section VI and we currently do not have a full picture of how such attitudes vary throughout the entire watershed.

Through the methods of civic engagement and civic governance explained in Section X, we believe the costs will be considerably less than what is listed here. We believe that the approach explained in Section X will create more willingness to participate with less of a need for cost-share money or certain government programs. Peer-to-peer learning, building of trust, and creating community will go a long way toward lowering the potential costs of what's needed. This approach will require organizations funding agricultural efforts to put less emphasis on money for incentive payments and more emphasis on fostering peer networking. This is why the education, citizen engagement, and civic leadership concepts and strategies recommended in Section X are so very important.

Soil Health & Water Quality Action Plan Cost Estimates for Recommended 1-3 Year Priorities

Recommendation/Cost Description	Assumptions	10-Yr Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources
1. Encourage implementation of agricultural, forestry, and urban/development BMP recommendations to meet 10-year indicators.	As previously discussed, human capital is crucial to this activity. Potential per BMP cost-sharing estimates discussed previously.	Human capital + see cost estimates for BMP cost sharing in previous subsection	Variety of potential resources to assist. Promote cost sharing programs, such as FSA & NRCS CRP, CREP, FWP, ACEP, and EQIP. Other projects could be funded with Section 319 grants, such as Targeted Run-off Management (TRM) Grants, NRCS Miss. R. Healthy Watershed Initiative, WDNR Urban NPS grants, USF&WS Fishers & Farmers Program, and other grant programs identified in Appendix B.

Recommendation/Cost Description	Assumptions	10-Yr Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources
2. Support the efforts of Lake Districts and Associations in implementation of their plans.	varies; see Lake Management Plans	varies by Lake Group	WDNR Lake Grants, Lake Districts/Associations, Counties
3. Establish BMP tracking system for LCD use, continue farm transect surveys, and begin other early monitoring activities	5 counties x $4,000 to $6,000 per county for tracking system; other early monitoring activities largely supported by WDNR & LCD staff	$20,000 to $30,000	WDNR River Protection Grant. County LCDs. Potentially WDNR supported as a statewide initiative.
4. Complete ACOE technical review of Lake Eau Claire floodplain/wetland re-connectivity strategy; implement if feasible.	ACOE tech assist. for study that will provide project cost estimate	requires additional discussion with ACOE	ACOE Assistance to States Technical Assistance Program; WDNR Lake/River Grants
5. Identify/address failing septic systems.	How to best address failing systems (e.g., education, enforcement, incentives, # of replacements/yr) has not been determined	$5,000 to $15,000 per system with an estimated 275 failing systems in riparian areas.	Private landowners, WI Fund Grant, if available, for replacement. May be addressed through existing programs, but with increased attention to the issue.
6. Work with municipalities and industry to explore innovative P reduction strategies (e.g., water quality trading, adaptive management).	Exploring these concepts requires time, but can be accomplished with existing resources. No specific projects have been defined.	project scope and potential costs unknown	Municipalities; some Section 319 Adaptive Mgmt and WQT funding support may be available. Depending on the project and community, CDBG-PF and USDA-RD grants or loans may be available.

Recommendation/Cost Description	Assumptions	10-Yr Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources
7. Install monitoring gauges. Begin monthly TP and/or suspended solids sampling in areas targeted for BMPs, as BMPs are implemented. Discuss/begin collection of additional baseline data as needed. Monitoring at additional sites, such as tributaries, may be added as the project proceeds.	This includes two primary activities: (a) Monitoring gauges on Eau Claire River. Based on recent costs, USGS gauges installed and first year of operation is $22,600, with $11,500 in annual costs thereafter. The Lake Altoona Sedimentation Study (2015) suggested the cost per meter could range from $1,700 - $7,500, plus maintenance and licensing. (b) Trained volunteer monthly monitoring in target watersheds for TP and/or SS ($25-$50 per test per site per month).	Replace/reactivate two USGS gauges: $45,200 installation and year one operation + $23,000 per year thereafter Other gauges: $10,000 to $40,000 for installation, plus operating, maintenance, licensing, etc. Testing fees for volunteer monitoring: $300-$600 per site per year	WDNR River Protection Grant, WDNR TRM Grant, USGS, trained volunteer support for data collection
8. Conduct lake and delta coring and develop bathymetric maps.	Lake Altoona Sedimentation Study (2015) suggested $80,000 to $125,000 for Lake Altoona maps.	$240,000 to $375,000 for 3 lakes + $250-$500 per core	Lake groups, counties, WDNR lake grants
9. Establish aerial record of river course and delta deposition changes; determine erosion hotspots.	Lake Altoona Sedimentation Study (2015) suggested about 64 hours of effort needed, but could be expanded to other areas.	$3,200-$10,000	Lake groups, counties, WDNR lake/river grants, potential student project
10. Form a Citizen Water Quality & Habitat Monitoring Group to help support and/or coordinate volunteer monitoring efforts as needed.	Volunteer based activity.	$0	Use and promote existing WDNR and non-profit monitoring programs, networks, and resources.

Fisheries & Habitat Action Plan Costs Estimates

While important, the fisheries & habitat objectives and action plan were not a required part of this 9-key element plan. Many of these recommendations would not be eligible for Section 319 grant funding. As such, cost estimates for these recommendations are not included here. However, Appendix B does include a variety of grant funding and technical resources that are available to assist with implementation of these recommendations.

Using Partnerships to Develop Innovative Projects and Leverage Resources that Address Multiple Recommendations

The action plan recommendations in this Watershed Strategy support the overall vision and goals; they are not isolated, unrelated strategies. When pursuing resources (and identifying needed grant match contributions), it will often be more efficient and effective to combine many of the individual recommendations into a single project. And to maximize and leverage resources, partnerships that extend beyond individual lakes, communities, and counties are also crucial. The first page of Appendix B provides an innovative example from the nearby Red Cedar Watershed on how various resources can be used effectively.

One such example for the Eau Claire River Watershed could be the pursuit of a large-scale ($500,000 to $1 million) Targeted Runoff Management Grant (TRM Grant) to support BMP adoption, demonstration/pilot projects, educational efforts, and related monitoring in targeted subwatersheds as discussed in Section VIII. Such a project could be further enhanced through the creation of farmer-led councils that tap into DATCP grant funding or by exploring adaptive management with a downstream municipality.

Another example could be development of a community outreach project that could include the distribution of public educational materials, the development of a video on the economic importance of good soil health, the development of a recognition program for landowners adopting BMPs, and an initiative to encourage more resident participation in monitoring efforts. Such efforts can be supported by an EPA Environmental Education Grant and/or WDNR Lakes Grant with matching funds from private foundations, corporate sponsors, and support from post-secondary students (e.g., UW-EC, CVTC).

The potential funding sources for the 1-3 year cost estimates provided previously in this section offer a starting point for the development of potential projects in the short-term. There may also be opportunities to also address some of the longer-term action plan recommendations (3+ years) as part of a shorter-term project.

Eau Claire River Watershed

Funding Options

APPENDIX B.
WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

As of February 2016, the following tables provide a summary of the key grant and assistance resources most commonly used and potentially available to support implementation of the Eau Claire River Watershed Strategy. This summary is not exhaustive of all potential resources. These programs (and new programs) are subject to change over time.

Many of the grant programs are competitive and may require some type of local cash and/or in-kind cost sharing (grant match). However, many of these resources can also be leveraged and combined into a larger project in order to maximize effectiveness and increase their feasibility.

Those programs identified with a Section 319 funded tag are the grant primary programs funded, in part, by Federal Section 319 Clean Water Act-NPS dollars. In most cases, a 9-key element plan (such as this Watershed Strategy) is a pre-requisite when applying for these Section 319-funded grant programs for implementation projects.

Red Cedar Basin Assessment Project
- An Example Model for Leveraging Resources -

Lessons learned and models from other watersheds can provide guidance and inspire. As one example, to more effectively implement the Red Cedar River Watershed TMDL Plan, additional biophysical, economic, and sociological data was needed. In 2015, a partnership was created to gather this data that included the following contributions:

- **U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE)** $300,000
  Planning Assistance to State Program, including some subcontracted work to UW-Stout.
- **WDNR Lake Management Plan Implementation Grant** $200,000
  UW-Stout social, economic, and civic engagement work, plus project administration by West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
- **Tainter-Menomin Lake Improvement Assoc.** $54,000
  In-kind match using the value of the annual Red Cedar Land, Water, & People Conference.
- **Dunn County, Barron County, & UW-Extension** $58,700
  In-kind staff and resource contributions from existing budgets for project support.

The USACOE program required a 50% local match, which was met by WDNR Lake Grant and local in-kind contributions. The 25% match for the WDNR Lake Grant was more than met by the value of the USACOE technical assistance. Implementation of this three-year project began in Spring 2016. (NOTE as of 2/13/16 – grant proposals are pending; remove or revise this summary if not funded)

APPENDIX B.

WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

RESOURCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Federal & State Grant Programs - Lakes, Rivers and Stormwater Management	
WDNR – Lake Management Planning Grants and Lake Protection Grants Section 319 funded	This is a frequently used funding source for Lake District & Association projects and includes the following sub-programs: • Lake Classification & Ordinance Development • Land/Easement Acquisition • Wetland & Shoreline Habitat • Lake Management Plan Implementation • Healthy Lakes Project
WDNR – River Protection Grants Section 319 funded	This funding includes the following sub-programs: • River Planning • River Management • Land/Easement Acquisition
WDNR – Aquatic Invasive Species Grants	Also frequently used by lakes groups, this funding includes the following sub-programs: • Early Detection & Response • Education, Prevention, & Planning • Clean Boats Clean Water Use • Established Population Control • Maintenance & Containment Use
WDNR - Targeted Runoff Management Grants Section 319 funded	For agricultural or urban nonpoint source pollution control projects in targeted, critical geographic areas. Large scale ($1 mil) and small scale ($150,000) available. 30% match.
WDNR - Urban Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Management Grants Section 319 funded	Commonly used by cities and village for planning and construction of stormwater runoff pollution prevention and controls.
USDA FSA – Source Water Protection Program	SWPP is designed to protect surface and ground water used as drinking water by rural residents. The program targets states based on their water quality and population.

APPENDIX B.
WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

RESOURCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Federal & State Grant Programs - Lakes, Rivers and Stormwater Management	
Other Various Water-Related Grants	The following additional water-related grant programs are available: • WDNR Dam Municipal Grant Program and Dam Removal Grant Program • WDNR Municipal Flood Control Grants • WDNR Discharge Cost-Share Grants (for pollution controls at livestock operations) • WDNR Well Abandonment; Well Compensation if contaminated • WDNR Fisheries Production Grants (e.g., Wisconsin Walleye Initiative) • WDSPS Wisconsin Fund provides grants to homeowners and small commercial businesses to help offset a portion of the cost for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing failing Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) • Municipalities may also be eligible for a number of local and grant programs for infrastructure improvements that may benefit water quality and stormwater management, such as HUC Community Development Block Grants, USDA-Rural Development grant programs, or FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants • Under the Clean Water Act, the EPA's Water Pollution Control (Section 106) and Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319) grants are available to states and eligible tribes. The Coalition would access these dollars through existing WDNR services and grant programs. Section 319 funded • EPA Environmental Justice Grant supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues, including the building of collaborative partnerships. • EPA Pollution Prevention (P2) grants prioritize three emphasis areas: (i) climate change mitigation, (ii) pollution prevention in food processing sector, and (iii) hazardous materials source reduction activities. • U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) may be able to provide research and data collection to support the examination of the geological structure, water, mineral, and biological resources, and products of the national domain, if federal dollars are not available from another source.

APPENDIX B.

WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Federal & State Grant Programs - Agriculture, Conservation, and Habitat	
WDNR – Fish & Wildlife Management Grant Program (County Conservation Aids)	Allocated to Counties, typically implemented through county land & water conservation departments to enhance fish and wildlife programs.
WDNR – Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund & Related Federal Programs	Nature-based outdoor recreation and stewardship activities, including: • Aids for the Acquisition & Development of Local Parks • Urban Green Space • Urban Rivers • Acquisition of Development Rights • Land and Water Conservation Fund • Recreational Trails Act
WDNR/DATCP – Notice of Intent/ Discharge Cost-Share Grants Section 319 funded	WDNR and DATCP offer cost-share funding grants to governmental units working with owners and operators of livestock operations to meet pollution control requirements imposed by the DNR.
WI DATCP – Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grants	This program has two tiers: Capped at $20,000, Tier I grants fund projects that offer incentive payments to farmers for soil testing and other elements needed to complete a nutrient management plan. These grant projects also include workshops, on-farm visits, developing methods for farmers to measure their manure application rates, and completion of a nutrient management plan. Capped at $2,500, Tier II grants fund projects that educate farmers about soil testing and nutrient management without providing any financial incentives to them.
WI DATCP – Producer-Led Watershed Protection Programs (new in 2016)	Water quality projects that are led by a producer group (min. 5 farmers) with the assistance of a collaborating entity. Can include planning, education/outreach, pilot project, BMPs, monitoring, and incentives. (max. $20,000 award; 50% match)
WI DATCP – Soil and Water Resources Management Program Section 319 funded	DATCP awards annual grants to eligible county Land Conservation Committees (LCCs) and other cooperators to support conservation activities. DATCP awards grants to counties to pay for county conservation staff and to finance landowner cost sharing.
USDA FSA – Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	The Farm Service Agency's CRP program provides yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality In our region, the CRP-SAFE Program was established to target Karner Blue Butterfly habitat.

APPENDIX B.
WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Federal & State Grant Programs - Agriculture, Conservation, and Habitat	
USDA FSA – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	An offshoot of CRP, CREP targets high-priority conservation issues identified by government and non-governmental organizations. Farm land that falls under these conservation issues is removed from production in exchange for annual rental payments.
USDA FSA – Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)	FWP is designed to restore wetlands and wetland buffer zones that are farmed. FWP gives farmers and ranchers annual rental payments in return for restoring wetlands and establishing plant cover.
USDA NRCS – Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Section 319 funded	The Natural Resources Conservation Service's AMA program helps agricultural producers use conservation to manage risk and solve natural resource issues through natural resources conservation. Include technical and financial support.
USDA NRCS – Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Section 319 funded	CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance.
USDA NRCS – Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Section 319 funded	EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.
USDA NRCS – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Section 319 funded	ACEP provides financial assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands. ACEP includes a Wetland Reserve Easements component to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program (PFWP)	The PFWP provides technical assistance and financial cost sharing to private landowners for voluntary habitat restoration on private lands for the benefit of Federal trust species. In addition, USF&WS provides technical assistance for habitat-related education/outreach, research, restoration, and protection efforts. The majority of other USF&WS financial support grant programs are available to states or specific qualifying areas.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Fishers & Farmers Partnership (FFP) Aquatic Habitat Proposals	The FFP for the Upper Mississippi River Basin is a self-directed group of non-governmental agricultural and conservation organizations, tribal organizations, and state and federal agencies united to add value to farms while protecting, restoring, and enhancing the 30,700 miles of streams and rivers of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The FFP Aquatic Habitat Project provides funding for stream habitat project. The Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition may wish to monitor, and, perhaps, become a partner with FFP given the share mission and FFP's technical resources and the potential for future funding.
Other WDNR Habitat-Related Grants for Landowners	• WDNR Landowner Incentive Program ($2,500 - $25,000; 25% match) • WDNR Forest Landowner Grant Program (max 50% reimbursement for projects)

APPENDIX B.

WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Technical Assistance	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE)	USACOE can provide technical assistance involving wetlands, flood risk management, levee safety, water navigation, invasive species, and environmental/ecosystem protection, remediation, and restoration projects, depending on the nature of the project and location. Through the USACOE Planning Assistance to States program, the Corps can assist states, tribes, and local governments with water-related plans and studies. In addition, under the Corp's Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), USACOE can plan, design, and implement certain types of water resources projects of limited size, cost, scope, and complexity.
USDA FSA & NRCS	With offices in each county, the USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service are well positioned to assist farmers, landowners, local units of government, and the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition. The NRCS promotes coordination with NRCS partners to deliver conservation programs to farmers through agreements under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	WDNR technical assistance was critical to the development of this Watershed Strategy and will likewise be critical to plan implementation. A very strong relationship has been established between the Watershed Coalition and WDNR regional staff, including the Lake Management Coordinator, the NR Basin Coordinator, and the Water Resources Management Specialist. WDNR Targeted Runoff Management and Notice of Discharge Programs (Section 319 funded) can also help address difficult environmental sites.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Water Quality Monitoring	WDNR staff also perform water quality monitoring, as well as support lake and stream volunteer monitoring efforts through the Citizen-Based Water Monitoring Network of Wisconsin, the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, and the Water Action Volunteers-Citizen Stream Monitoring program. The WDNR manages these programs with the support of county land conservation offices, lake groups, local organizations (e.g., Beaver Creek Reserve), and committed citizen volunteers.
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	DATCP's soil and water resource management program operates in cooperation with county land conservation committees/departments, the Land and Water Conservation Board, the Department of Natural Resources, and other state and federal agencies to provide technical assistance, resources, and enforcement related to ATCP 50. For example, the web-based Wisconsin Manure Management Advisory System is a set of maps to help farmers and others who apply nutrients to identify suitable cropland areas for spreading, including maps for short-term runoff risk assessment, daily application planning, and longer-term Wisconsin NRCS 590 nutrient management.

APPENDIX B.

WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Technical Assistance	
County Land & Water Conservation Departments (LCDs)	The LCDs of each of the 5 counties included in the watershed actively participated in the development of this Watershed Strategy and, likewise, will be critical to implementation. In cooperation with USDA, WDNR, and UW-Extension staff, these LCDs are working everyday with landowners, farmers, lake groups, and communities to enhance water quality. The LCDs can also bring additional County resources to the table as needed and available.
UW-Extension	UW-Extension Agricultural Agents and the region's Natural Resource Educator were also very important resources during development of this Watershed Strategy and are important technical and coordinating resources to ensure successful implementation.
River Country Resource Conservation & Development Council	River Country RC&D is a 501(c)3 based in Eau Claire that covers all of the Eau Claire River Watershed, except that portion in Taylor County. The RC&D provides assistance to urban and rural economies, communities, and landscapes, including private land management support, grant assistance, water quality BMP projects, grazing network events, and educational efforts.
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)	As a multi-county governmental body covering the majority of the watershed, WCWRPC is well positioned to assist with watershed-led level planning, grant-writing, and collaboration.
Universities & Technical Colleges	Universities and technical colleges can provide research, and sometimes community service and volunteer support, for water quality efforts. Our watershed is fortunate to have access to numerous nearby higher educational resources, including UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, UW-Stevens Point, and Chippewa Valley Technical College. For example, UW-Eau Claire has established the Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies.

Other Implementation Support	
EPA – Environmental Education (EE) Grant Program	The EE Program supports environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. (2016 max award about $91,000; 25% match)
Lakes Associations and Districts	The lake associations and districts of the Eau Claire River Watershed have long been "on the frontline" for improving water quality and fisheries. Summaries of for each active district and association are provided within the HUC-10 descriptions of Section III of this Watershed Strategy. Statewide support and advocacy on lakes issues is provided through Wisconsin Lakes.

APPENDIX B.
WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Other Implementation Support	
Lower Chippewa River Alliance	LCRA was organized to support the conservation, preservation, and stewardship of the Lower Chippewa River Basin, which includes the Eau Claire River Watershed.
Cooperative Invasive Species/ Weed Management Areas	Two CISMAs exist within the watershed—the Lower Chippewa Invasive Partnership includes Chippewa and Eau Claire counties and the Upper Chippewa CWMA includes Taylor County. CISMAs are local organizations that bring together landowners and land managers to coordinate action and share expertise and resources to manage invasive species. As an example, "Spread the word, not the plant" is LCIP's motto, and the mission of LCIP is to control invasive plants by fostering partner cooperation and community action.
Rain to Rivers of Western Wisconsin	Rain to Rivers of western Wisconsin is a partnership between several local and county governments, including Chippewa and Eau Claire counties, who are all required to have state permits to regulate storm water. Rain to Rivers facilitates the coordination of information and education programs among the different members and can be an important partner in providing public outreach.
Municipalities and Elected Officials	Municipalities have a statutory, economic, health, and societal interest in good water quality. Our counties, cities, villages, and towns are important stakeholders and can provide local community/ networking, equipment, technical resources, and financial support for projects. The County Towns Associations offer a convenient way to outreach to the unincorporated towns.
Private-Sector Businesses and the Agri-Business Sector	Local businesses (and their employees) use and value clean water. These businesses (or their foundations) may be valuable partners for funding, in exchange for name recognition and the good public relations. For example, Leinenkugals Brewing Company has provided substantial support for water quality efforts in the Little Lake Wissota Watershed. Business groups, such as county economic development corporations, chambers/tourism bureaus, and realtors associations, can provide important avenues to outreach to businesses within the watershed. Due to their relationship to farmers, the agri-business sector (e.g., cooperatives, crop consultants, seed suppliers, food processing) can be very valuable partners.

APPENDIX B.
WATER QUALITY GRANT & ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Other Implementation Support	
Other Federal & State Grants	The following web sites are additional places to search for or monitor federal and state grant programs and announcements: • www.grants.gov The federal government's primary, overall grant "search engine" and management tool. Many departments also maintain their own grant webpages. • www.cfda.gov The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) in federal grants and other assistance programs. • https://attra.ncat.org/calendar/funding.php A National Sustainable Agriculture Assistance Program (ATTRA) by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) • http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Grants_and_Financial_Aid/ Wisconsin DATCP grants. • http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/grants.html Wisconsin DNR grants
Foundation Grants	A variety of private foundations (e.g., Xcel Energy, McKnight Foundation) have been used in other watersheds to support water quality and conservation efforts. The L.E. Philips Memorial Library has a subscription to The Foundation Center's online database, which allows an opportunity to research potential foundation grants by subject and geographic area.
Other Stakeholders and Partners	Section X of this Watershed Strategy identifies other key stakeholders and partners that are necessary for success, not the least of which are the landowners themselves. This list in Section X is long, but includes the following as examples of potential partners and other assistance resources that may play an active or supporting role in strategy implementation: • Volunteers to actively serve on the Coalition, support Coalition activities, and help implement Watershed Strategy recommendations, such as monitoring efforts. • Agricultural organizations and producer-led groups, such as the Farmer Bureau, Farmers Union, FFA, and Golden Triangle AEA. • Recreation groups and service organizations, such as rod & gun clubs, paddler clubs, Trout Unlimited, Augusta Area Bass Club, and Ducks Unlimited. • Environmental and advocacy organizations, such as Wisconsin Dragonfly Society, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, River Alliance of Wisconsin, The Nature Conservancy, and Beaver Creek Reserve. • Youth organizations, schools, and clubs.

UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS

October 4	***Land and Water Conservation Board meeting in Madison***
October 13	***Legislative Committee meeting in Stevens Point***
October 14	Lake Michigan Area Association meeting and fall conference
October 15	WI Soybean Yield Contest entries due. More information at www.coolbean.info
	Fish habitat conservation proposals due to Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
October 20	***Board of Directors' meeting in Stevens Point***
November 4	Applications due for 2017-18 Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grant
December 1	***Cost-Share Funds Transfer Agreement (Form 407) to transfer cost-share funds between counties must be completed and received by DATCP no later than December 1***
	Board of Directors' meeting in Wisconsin Rapids
December 1-2	Land and Water Conservationist (aka County Conservationist) meeting in Wisconsin Rapids
December 9	Northwestern Area Association meeting in Hayward
December 10	DNR Surface Water Planning Grant deadline
December 31	***Final versions of resolutions to be considered at March 17, 2017, business meeting must be received at WI Land+Water***
	Nominations due for Conservation Farmer of the Year, Outstanding Conservation Employee (three categories), Outstanding Supervisor, Conservation Steward, and Special Recognition/Friend of Conservation awards to WI Land+Water
	Extension requests and final reports are due for Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants with DATCP
January 13	Lake Michigan Area Association planning and budget meeting
January 24	***Executive Committee meeting in Portage***
January 27	Lake Winnebago Land and Water Area Association meeting
February 1	DNR Surface Water Management Grant deadline
February 10	North Central Area Association Meeting in Vilas County
February 22	All local/area poster and speaking contests need to be held prior to February 22. All registration forms and posters must be received by WI Land+Water by February 22
March 15	***Board of Directors' meeting in Elkhart Lake***
March 15-17	WI Land+Water Annual Conference in Elkhart Lake
April 7	WI Envirothon in Rosholt

WISCONSIN LAND+WATER

For more information or questions, please contact
Penny Pohle at penny@wisconsinlandwater.org or (608) 441-2677 Ext. 6

WISCONSIN LAND+WATER

(608) 441-2677 http://wisconsinlandwater.org/

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WI Land+Water) is a membership organization that supports the efforts of land conservation committee (LCC) supervisors and conservation staff through training, conservation standards development, youth education, grants, partnership building, and advocacy.

WI LAND+WATER STAFF

Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director (jim@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- Lead Wisconsin Land+Water and is responsible to the WI Land+Water President and Board of Directors
- Manage day-to-day affairs of the association, budget development, financial management, policy advocacy and communication with agency's partners, elected officials, and other organizations

Christina Anderson, Training & Outreach Program Specialist (christina@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- Work with the State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) to develop and provide training
- Work with the Outreach Committee to promote WI Land+Water and its members
- Coordinate pilot project with DNR and local stakeholders to assess nitrate transport in wellhead protection areas in three demonstration areas

Penny Pohle, Membership Services Coordinator (penny@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- Coordinate member services including maintaining a statewide directory of county staff and land conservation committees
- Work closely with area associations and be their point person at WI Land+Water
- Work with State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) to develop and provide training
- Develop and maintain area association webpages on WI Land+Water website

Chris Schlutt, Training & Outreach Program Coordinator (chris@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- Plan and execute the annual conference
- Work with the State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) to develop and provide training
- Create and collect material for Land Conservation Committee (LCC) supervisor training; coordinate LCC trainings

Jennifer Thieme, Standards Oversight Council (SOC) Program Manager (jennifer@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- Manages the activities of the Standards Oversight Council and their team approach for revising and developing technical standards for soil and water conservation programs in Wisconsin
- Work with WI Land+Water Technical Committee and serve as a liaison between WI Land+Water membership and state agencies for technical standard related issues

Kim Warkentin, Operations Manager/Youth Education Director (kim@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- Manage the operations of the organization
- Point person for Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and business and county conservationist meetings
- Direct the Youth and Education programs including poster and speaking contests, Wisconsin Envirothon, Conservation Camps, and the Land+Water Conservation Initiative in coordination with the Youth Education Committee

DATCP REPORT

October 2016

Soil and Water Resource Management Grants

- At their meeting on Tuesday, October 4th, the Land and Water Conservation Board will review and recommend approval of the final 2017 Joint Allocation Plan.
- The Cost-Share Funds Transfer Agreement (Form 407) to transfer cost-share funds between counties must be completed and received by DATCP no later than December 1, 2016.

Land and Water Resource Management Plans

- At the October 4th meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Board, the Board will review and recommend approval of LWRM plans for Waushara, Sawyer, Florence, and Green Counties.

Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants

- DATCP staff reviewed 12 grant applications for the 2017 Fiscal Year Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant program. Eleven of the applications were funded for a total of $197,065.
- The ATCP Board approved public hearings for ATCP 52 on September 8th. Public hearings will be held on October 17, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Madison and on October 20, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Eau Claire.
- DATCP staff continue to meet with producer-led groups throughout the state to learn more about groups' progress and identify areas of needed assistance. More information about all of the funded producer-led projects including a story map about each one can be found on our website.[1]
- The Producer-Led Annual Information Sharing workshop will be held on December 14th at the Wilderness in Wisconsin Dells. At least one member from each producer-led group and collaborators are invited to attend. For more information view our website.[2]

Nutrient Management

- DATCP is currently revising ATCP 50, primarily to incorporate the new federal NRCS 590 standard adopted in December 2015. Comments are being accepted on the economic impact of the proposed rule revision on businesses, local governments, and individuals. Comments will be accepted until October 20, 2016 and can be sent to Sue Porter.[3] The text of the approved scope statement, initial regulatory flexibility analysis, and the initial hearing draft (which has not yet been approved by the DATCP Board) are on our website.[4] This comment period does not replace the public hearing process. Public hearings on the proposed rule are anticipated in late January and early February.

Farmland Preservation

- Recent farmland preservation program approvals include Jackson and Trempealeau County FP plans, St. Croix and Outagamie County FP Plan map amendments, and the Town of Buffalo's FP zoning ordinance (Marquette County).
- Land and Water Resources staff, in partnership with 12 other organizations, submitted a proposal to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for consideration of a Regional Conservation Partnership Program project within the Agricultural Enterprise Areas located in Lafayette County. If successful, the project will provide farmers access to additional federal funding for conservation practices. If you need help with a similar type of project in your AEA, contact us.

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[1] https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjects.aspx
[2] https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjects.aspx
[3] E-mail comments can be submitted to sue.porter@wi.gov. Written comments can be sent to Sue Porter, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) – Division of Agricultural Resource Management, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911.
[4] https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/PublicCommentsEconomicImpact.aspx

Notice of Discharge/Notice of Intent Grants

- There is still time to apply for a grant through the Notice of Discharge/Notice of Intent grant program in 2016. DATCP and DNR both have some money available to help resolve a discharge issue. If interested, work with your DNR Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator to complete the grant application[5] by October 19. Contact your regional coordinator, or Mike Gilbertson, DNR, or Scott Karel, DATCP, with questions.

Conservation Engineering

- In September 2016, NRCS released the revised Conservation Practice Standard 635 – Vegetated Treatment Area (VTA).[6] A significant departure from the current standard, the new standard has different criteria based on the livestock operation's animal units (AUs) and separation distance to water resource concerns. Some type of runoff storage will be required in most cases except for operations that are less than 300 AUs and not close to water resources.

- At some point, ATCP 50 and the Engineering Practitioner Certification/Job Approval Authority form will be updated to incorporate the new NRCS 635 standard. At this time, counties will continue to need DATCP or NRCS Area Engineers to provide design and construction approval for VTA projects. DATCP and DNR plan to set aside separate reserves in 2017 to help offset the added costs in controlling runoff from barnyards, feed storage and milking center waste.

- In its proposed revision to ATCP 50, DATCP is proposing changing the certification process to include a three year renewal provision. The draft rule with the new provisions is currently being circulated to collect comments on the economic impact of the proposals. A draft of the rule is available on our website.[7]

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- The Farm Service Agency has signed an amendment to the agreement for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Wisconsin. The amendment adds additional areas in Monroe, Juneau, Columbia, and Sauk Counties; and Adams County as eligible areas for CREP.

- DATCP offers CREP training for counties that covers CREP basics, county CREP responsibilities, and available tools. Trainings can be held locally and are a good opportunity for all partner agencies (LCD, FSC, NRCS, and DATCP) to convene and review CREP in their area. Contact Brian.Loeffelholz@wisconsin.gov if you are interested in arranging a training or have any other CREP-related questions.

Other Items

- The 2015 Land and Water Conservation Annual Report[8] is now available! The report highlights conservation work around the state by highlighting county success stories, and also summarizes annual reporting information provided by counties earlier this year. Two hard copies of the report are available for each county. Additional copies can be printed from the website. Contact Coreen Fallat to determine how to get your copies or to provide your suggestions for success stories to highlight in the 2016 report.

- The next SITCOM meeting will be on October 24. That meeting will mark the beginning of an evaluation of the program that will help to highlight successes of the group and identify areas for improvement with respect to the training needs of conservation professionals statewide.

- Plans for a New Employee Training on November 14th are in the works! The New Employee Training provides new employees with an opportunity get an overview of conservation programs and partners in Wisconsin. Roundtables during the day provide new employees with a chance to connect with agency partners on specific programs. For more information, contact Penny Pohle at WI Land+Water.

[5] http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/nod.html
[6] https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WI/635_WI_CPS-(2016-09).pdf
[7] https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/ATCP50HearingDratforeconomicimpactcomments.pdf
[8] https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LandWaterAnnualReport2015.pdf