



APRIL 2019

2018 WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



SHORELINE & STREAMBANK PROTECTION EFFORTS

By Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist

The Winnebago System, specifically the upper pool lakes (Poygan, Winneconne, Butte des Morts), was once a large, fertile, riverine marsh system supporting dense emergent and submergent plant communities. These dense plant communities once protected the shorelines from erosion and anchored the lake bottom with their root systems which prevented sediment re-suspension.

In the 1850's, dams were constructed in Neenah and Menasha for the improvement of commercial navigation that resulted in an increase of 2-3 feet in water levels. Impoundment of the Winnebago System changed the upper pool lakes from a river marsh ecosystem to a large, nutrient rich, turbid open water lake system. Wave action,



breakwall being constructed on top of geotextile

especially during high water years, continues to erode shorelines and adjacent wetlands. The Winnebago County Land Conservation Department (LWCD) completed a shoreline inventory on the Winnebago System which identified over 13 miles of shoreline that are actively eroding in Winnebago County. In order to protect these shorelines and wetlands from further erosion, the LWCD designs shoreline and streambank protection practices to help address the problem.

On the south shore of Lake Poygan, a landowner was experiencing high rates of erosion and wetland loss on their property. An off-shore breakwall was proposed to address the problem. Breakwaters are constructed off-shore in open water and built to protect shorelines from excessive erosion while providing “quiet water” behind the structure for restoration and protection of critical habitat. By leaving an area behind the structure, we are creating “quiet water” inside of the breakwater. Shallow emergent and submergent plants are then able to establish and stabilize themselves into the sediment with their root systems. Breakwaters assist in breaking the wind driven wave before it has a chance to reach the shoreline. Typically, breakwaters have openings in the structures to allow for fish and wildlife access, human access, and water circulation. Breakwaters are usually installed during the winter months once the ice thickness reaches close to 2 feet in order to support the heavy loads of the equipment used to construct these unique projects.

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Shoreline & Streambank Protection Efforts	1 & 2
Mapping Emergent Weed Beds: A Cooperative Project with the WI DNR	3 & 4
Nutrient Management Planning	5
The Soil Health Challenge	5
Winnebago County LWCD, NRCS & FSA Administer \$1,378,963 in Conservation Program Funding	5
Wetland Restoration 2018	6
2018 Installed Best Management Practices	7
Grazing Demo	8
Information & Education	9 & 10
2018 Farmland Preservation Program Annual Report	11
2018 Rain Garden Program	11
Upper Fox & Wolf River Watersheds Regional Demonstration Farms Network “In The Works”	11
Annual Poster Contest	12 & 13
Tree Sale	14

The first phase of this project on Lake Poygan was installed in 2003. The shoreline and lake adjacent wetlands were eroding at high rates annually. The site had minimal aquatic plants and was experiencing high wave energy that would stir up the sediment creating turbid water. This portion of the property had a 946' rock breakwall installed that now prevents sediment laden phosphorus from becoming re-suspended from the wave energy. Since the project was installed, the area behind the rock structure is a thriving diverse wetland community with crystal clear water. It was a stunning transformation and response to the breakwall installation. The first phase created over 5 acres of new lake adjacent wetlands behind the rock structure and protects over 10 acres of existing wetland.

The second phase of this project was a 504' rock breakwall that was designed and installed on the ice in the winter of 2018. This breakwall is now protecting the remaining lake adjacent wetlands and shoreline on the property. Since 1941, almost 9 acres of wetland have eroded on this portion of the property. It will now enhance over 3 acres of open water and create new lake adjacent wetlands behind the rock structure. It will also protect over 13 acres of existing wetland to the south of the project. This project was funded by the LWCD, Ducks Unlimited and the landowners. The entire project is now reducing the pollution loading to Lake Poygan by over 100 tons of sediment and 130 lbs. of phosphorus annually.

In the winter of 2018, the LWCD also worked with multiple landowners to design and install six on-shore riprap shoreline and streambank protection projects in Winnebago County. The projects were installed on the Wolf River, Fox River, Lake Winneconne, Lake Poygan and Lake Butte des Morts. These projects are now protecting 1,593 ft. of shoreline and streambank from further erosion and are reducing 106 tons of sediment and 159 lbs. of phosphorus from entering these waterbodies.

These shoreline and streambank protection practices are creating fish and wildlife habitat while improving water quality that results in a healthier lake system for everyone.

completed new breakwall on the ice



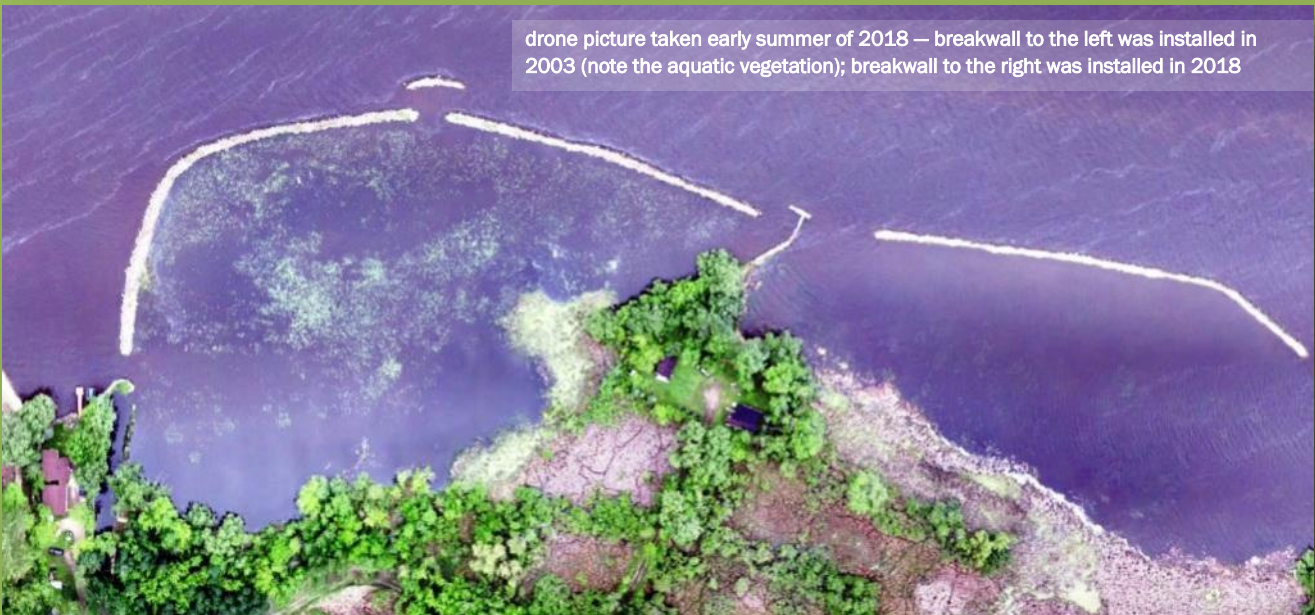
earlier breakwall with native aquatic vegetation growth behind it



native aquatic vegetation behind the breakwall



drone picture taken early summer of 2018 — breakwall to the left was installed in 2003 (note the aquatic vegetation); breakwall to the right was installed in 2018



MAPPING EMERGENT WEED BEDS: A COOPERATIVE PROJECT WITH THE WI DNR

By Andy Maracini, GIS Specialist and
Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist and
Chris Kolasinski, WI Dept. of Natural Resources

The Lake Management Planning work for the Winnebago System is currently underway with a collaborative effort from many different groups gathering all the needed pieces to draft a quality Lake Management Plan. One of the tasks that needed to be accomplished was documenting the existing emergent plant beds on Lake Winnebago and the Upper Pool Lakes (Poygan, Winneconne, and Butte des Morts). The Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) assisted the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) in completing the survey of emergent plant beds in the Winnebago Pool System.

Emergent vegetation are plants that have their stems and leaves extend out of the water while rooting themselves into the lake bottom. By mapping this information, we will have a baseline of emergent plant bed existing conditions. This information will give an indication of where certain species may thrive. This could be a result of specific depths, certain substrate or areas more protected from wind energy. This will also help guide lake improvement work and evaluate the progress and success of projects in future years.

The WI DNR approached LWCD because of our expertise and tools available for mapping. LWCD has employed high accuracy GPS (Global Positioning System) for nearly 20 years, but also recently acquired a drone or UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle). This project served as an excellent test-case for comparing the two methods of mapping as each has its advantages and disadvantages. The main advantage of traditional GPS is accuracy. Our GNSS (Global

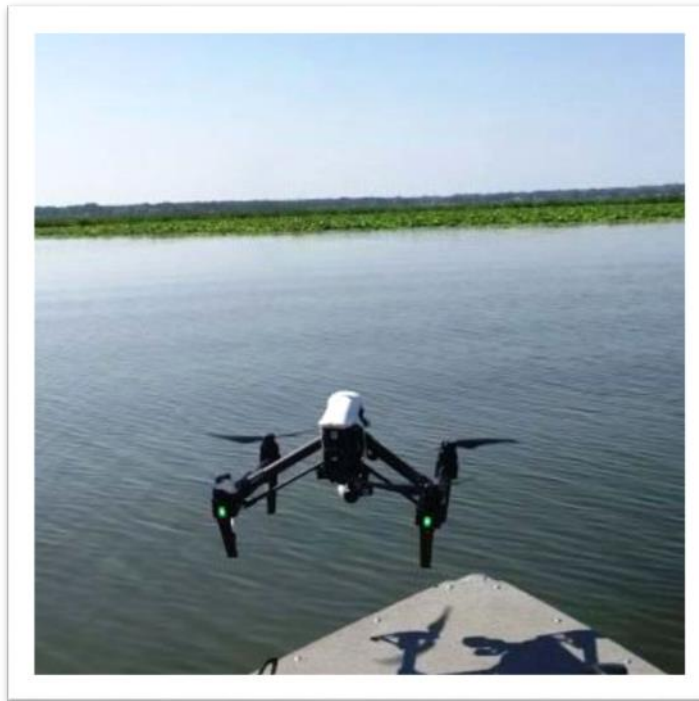
Navigation Satellite System) RTK (Real-time Kinematic) GPS receivers are capable of sub-centimeter accuracy. This type of accuracy is critical when designing certain best management practices or other engineering solutions. In this project, however, extreme accuracy was not critical. The main challenge of using the GPS in this task was the depth of water being surveyed. The weed-beds are typically in very shallow water and made navigating with a boat very difficult and potentially damaging to the boat motor. Because of this limitation, LWCD suggested trying to use the UAV to map the weed beds. LWCD acquired a DJI Inspire 1 drone in early

weed bed such as species and the overall area of the weed bed. The processes used to create the GIS map are quite different. In the case of the GPS, data is represented by actual points that are then converted into polygons in the GIS. With the drone, a grid shaped pattern is flown over an area taking overlapping photographs. Those photographs are then uploaded to another program where they are processed and a mosaic is created. This single ortho-rectified (meaning it has real world coordinates) image is the final drone product. The image is then brought into a GIS where it is analyzed and the weed bed boundaries are digitized to create the polygon feature.

The test case was flown over an area of approximately 35 acres at an altitude of 200 feet. The drone has its own set of limitations that need to be considered when gathering data. A main consideration in any UAV flight is battery life. Our drone has a battery life of approximately 18 minutes, which effectively means about 15 minutes of actual flight time; you never want to run out of battery while attempting to land! Another major obstacle is flying over water and landing in a boat. Clearly there was little room for error. Lastly, altitude is a major factor in collecting imagery. The drone can capture very high resolution images at low altitude but that limits the amount of area that is being covered. Our goal was to capture imagery at a resolution high enough to allow

the DNR to create maps by specie while also flying at a high enough altitude to cover the most area in each pass.

The test case was encouraging, the imagery was clear enough to delineate weed beds by species. The DNR wanted to continue with the remaining work in the shallow bay areas that could not otherwise be reached by



our drone, Blinky takes off to map weed beds on Lake Poygan

2018 and has 2 pilots certified to fly under FAA regulations. Andy Maracini, GIS Specialist and licensed pilot, recommended a test flight to determine if using a drone would provide the DNR with enough detail to map weed beds.

In both cases (GPS or drone) the process is to capture data in the field and then process the data using GIS software to create weed bed polygons that include information about the

Continued on page 4

boat. LWCD was now officially in the business of air-sea operations!

As with any new endeavor many lessons were learned in using our drone, affectionately known as Blinky. The limitation of battery life was solved by purchasing more batteries. We found having 4 fully charged batteries was sufficient to capture enough photographs on any given mission. Several different “apps” were tested to create and execute flight plans and each had its own set of bugs or disadvantages. Creating too large of a flight plan generally resulted in mission errors and flights would have to be aborted. We had the most success when creating flights of 40 acres or less. The sheer volume of flight time accrued by pilot Andy Maracini was invaluable. At some moments the flight could be



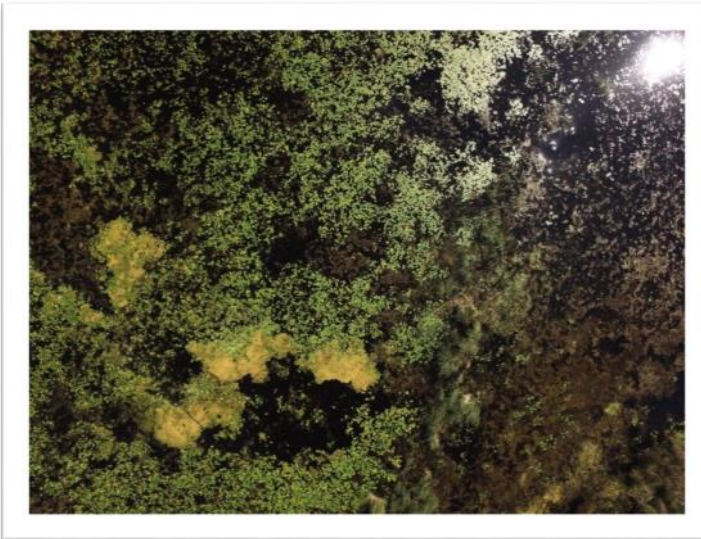
Results from the DNR are as follows: A total of 244 beds were identified throughout the Winnebago System. Of those beds, 183 were done using the

GPS unit identifying 497 acres of emergent or floating-leaf vegetation. The remaining 61 plant beds were identified using aerial photography from the drone. These beds amounted to 268 acres of vegetation.

In conclusion, we found using the drone was a valuable tool. It allowed our staff to assist the DNR in achieving the goal of mapping emergent weed beds. We look forward to using Blinky in many other projects and continuing to build on our experience as UAV pilots. Ultimately, the goal is to create useful data and products necessary to make better informed conservation decisions in our work.

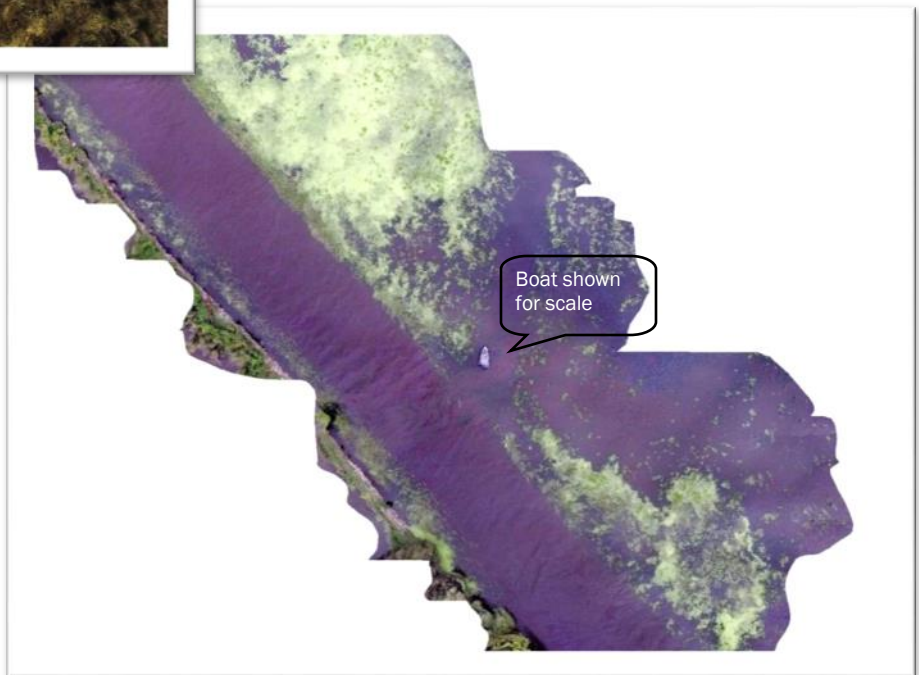
Photo Key:

oblique photo showing Wild Rice Beds (top right); weedbed photo before mosaic process (middle left); completed ortho-photo mosaic (bottom right)



nerve wracking, such as when losing momentary communication with the drone. These were exactly the type of experiences that were learned about during training for the FAA Remote Pilot exam.

By the time the project was completed, 8 days of flying were completed accruing approximately 6 hours of flight time. A total of 4,042 photographs were taken covering 455 acres. The computer processing of imagery took a total of 27 hours and was done using Autodesk ReCap Photo software via cloud services. The DNR was provided with the final product orthophotography as well as GPS points.





NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

By Sheila Smith, Agronomist

Farmer training classes for nutrient management planning were held again this year. These classes give farmers a better understanding of the required steps to write Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) and provide basic knowledge about soil, nutrients, manure, and the growing of crops. One on one computer assistance is also available.

The total number of reported NMP acres for 2018 was 66,062, an 8% increase (5,158 acres) from 2017. In 2018, 1,776 new acres have been contracted to receive state funded cost-sharing to write a NMP for 2019. Currently, 58% of Winnebago County farmland has a NMP. This illustrates the priority the Land & Water Conservation Department has placed on this practice and the impact of the State Agricultural Performance Standards on ag producers within Winnebago County.

“THE SOIL HEALTH CHALLENGE”

By Sheila Smith, Agronomist

The Soil Health Challenge (SHC) is a six year program designed to reward participants that are willing to work with the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and commit a portion of their cropland to no-till farming, and cover crops. The purpose is to educate themselves and other producers on the many benefits of improved soil health. Each participants' field(s) will be identified with signage to communicate its purpose and to

recognize the landowner's commitment to soil health and water quality improvement. Participants of the SHC will be required to meet the program requirements in order to receive incentive payments. The payments increase incrementally each year during the six year agreement.

Two landowners are enrolled in the SHC for 2018, which is the first year of cover crop planting. One landowner, who is new to no-till and cover crops, planted a four species cover crop which emerged beautifully. His previous crop was wheat, which gave

him the opportunity for a cover crop mix since wheat is harvested in late July. This landowner will receive his first year incentive payment for reaching his goal. The second landowner was unable to get a cover crop planted due to growing corn for grain and the late, wet fall weather. Hopefully next year will be better.

Our department is looking forward to seeing the changes in compaction, biological activity, and rain infiltration and sharing this with the community. Our SHC signs will be posted this year and we will be holding our first field day.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LWCD, NRCS AND FSA ADMINISTER \$1,378,963 IN CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING

By Tom Davies, Director

In 2018 the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) was awarded \$266,358 in state grant funding. This funding was used to cost-share projects and practices for landowners and offset departmental expenses. In addition, the LWCD budgeted \$85,000 of cost-share funds provided to county constituents through the Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program. The LWCD also carried over \$167,428 of state and local contracted cost-share funds from 2017 to be utilized in 2018.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provided \$181,111 for the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) contracted through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and \$355,118 in incentives to producers/landowners for current and new conservation minded farming practices through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) provided \$267,555 in annual payments for 189 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that totaled 3,490 acres of enrolled land and \$56,393 in annual payments for 83 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts that totaled 511 acres of enrolled land.

These conservation program funds, totaling \$1,378,963 were utilized to cost-share and support the installation of BMPs and reward conservation minded land practices throughout Winnebago County. Grant and program funds such as these provide a significant and positive economic impact for our local producers/landowners, contractors and related businesses.

FSA also issued \$332,070 in agricultural commodity price support payments to Winnebago County producers.

WETLAND RESTORATION 2018

By Mike Haase, Conservation Technician

This past year our department designed and oversaw the installation of a wetland restoration system which was a continuation of a project started in 2017. This system was a collaboration between the landowner, the Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD), the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. The landowner's goal for this site was to provide an opportunity to educate youth about wetlands and waterfowl but also to create an opportunity for youth and wounded veterans to hunt waterfowl.

The 2018 portion of this project consists of two scrapes connected by a swale to hold water that will create about 0.5 acres of open water when full. The scrapes vary in depth from 0.5' to 4.5' creating a variety of edge habitat for ducks and other wildlife. The entire site converted 1.8 acres out of agricultural production to create wildlife habitat. Neighboring cropland

drains through this new wetland site which will act as a filter for the polluted runoff. The water quality benefit from this site is an estimated removal of 24 tons of soil and 36 pounds of phosphorus each year from the water runoff.

Wetland restorations are incredibly effective conservation practices because of the multifunctional values they provide. They protect water quality by removing sediment and nutrients from runoff and provide habitat for a multitude of wildlife. If you think you have a good site for a wetland or would like more information regarding wetland restorations, contact our department at

(920) 232-1950.

In addition to the wetland restoration projects, this landowner also entered into an agreement with a beef operator to rotationally graze about 20 acres of his property.

Look in the annual report next year to read more about the next phase for this farm!

shaped pond around a tree

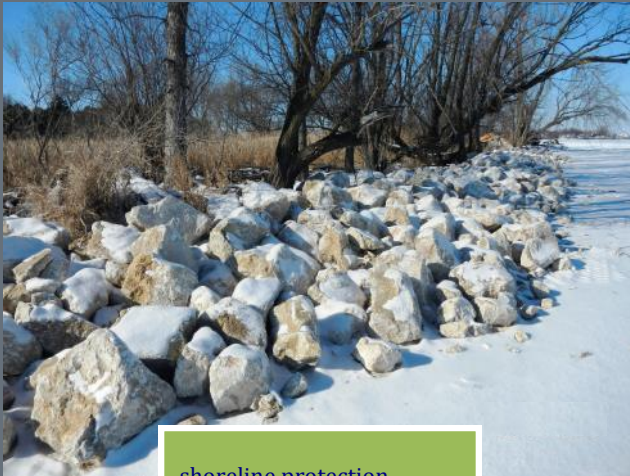


2017 ponds



2018 ponds

2018 INSTALLED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



shoreline protection

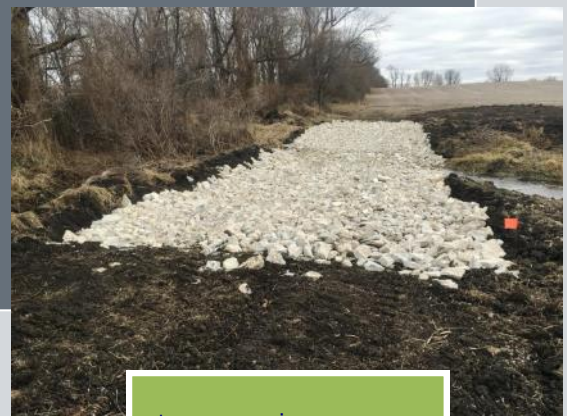
By Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department has several funding sources available to provide cost-sharing for the installation of eligible conservation projects. These funds help financially aid landowners with the installation of various eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs). Along with the funding assistance, our department provides survey, engineering design, and construction supervision to ensure the projects are installed according to proper design specifications. Installing these BMPs will reduce the sediment and phosphorus loading to our local waterways. The BMPs will provide protection of water quality and groundwater resources throughout Winnebago County. The table below illustrates a summary of the structural BMPs designed and installed in 2018 with and without cost-sharing.

Best Management Practice	Units Installed
Access Road	310 lin. ft.
Livestock Fencing	20,600 lin. ft.
Livestock Pipeline	100 lin. ft.
Critical Area Stabilization	2.1 Acres
Heavy Use Area Protection	476 sq. ft.
Rain Gardens	3 ea.
Stream Crossing	5 ea.
Streambank/Shoreline Protection	2,097 ft.
Waste Storage Facility Closure	1 ea.
Watering Facility	1 ea.
Wetland Restoration	1.92 acres
Well Decommissioning	12 ea.



critical area stabilization



stream crossing

GRAZING DEMO

By Mike Haase, Conservation Technician

On July 26, 2018 the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) hosted a grazing demo in cooperation with Koro Dairy, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the UW-Extension and Cutler Fence. There were over 40 people in attendance, most of whom were farmers from Winnebago and surrounding counties. The purpose of this demo was to show farmers how to rotationally graze, the tools that can be used to set up a system of pastures, the economic and health benefits for the farmer and the livestock, and the environmental benefits.

The demo opened with Lyden Rasmussen of Koro Dairy speaking to the crowd about his rationale for moving into rotational grazing for his dairy operation. Lyden discussed the advantages and disadvantages of grazing dairy and touched upon the economics and the herd health advantages.

Randy Cutler of Cutler Fence then spoke on proper fence installation and showed examples of the products he works with. Randy spoke about permanent fence vs temporary fence, the different posts that are used, and the different types of fasteners. He explained proper waterline installation and showed examples of the types of couplers, tee connections, and water tanks that can be used.

The attendees then moved to another station where Mike Haase of the Winnebago County LWCD showed them an example of a raised access lane with a culvert crossing. Mike explained the different types of access roads, cattle trails and stream crossings and talked about the proper installation of each. A display was also presented showing several examples of cattle trails and stream crossings.

Cutler Fence then completed a demo of fence installation which included the use of a skid steer to install a fence post, the wiring up of corner braces, and the running of wire from post to post. They invited several of the attendees to participate with the fence installation to keep the crowd involved and show that it was possible for the farmer to install on their own.

The group then moved to another station where Adam Abel of the NRCS had set up a rainfall simulator demo comparing soil from an old pasture, a rotationally grazed pasture, a typical crop tillage field and a no-till and cover crop field. He then discussed the economics of grazing dairy, youngstock and beef.

Adam and Lyden then demonstrated how to move cattle from pasture to pasture to show how simple and effective it is. Properly managed pasture can produce more tonnage of biomass per acre than typical harvested cropland resulting in the cattle getting more nutrients and protein. If the cattle are removed from the pasture when the grass is still 6 inches tall it will grow back much faster. Adam then spoke about interseeding and other pasture management methods.

The event concluded with an open session where the presenters stayed to answer questions from the attendees. The overall response to the demo was extremely positive and attendees indicated they would be interested in future events.

fence and pipeline products



interseeding pasture and moving cattle



fence installation



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

By Melanie Leet, Conservation Technician

Winnebago County's water resources are essential for our community. Protecting and improving these water resources is the main mission of the Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD). Winnebago County citizens are dependent on these water resources to provide drinking water, recreational opportunities, and habitat for fish and wildlife. One of the ways that we can achieve this mission is through educational opportunities with Winnebago County citizens. Continually educating people of all ages about our water resources and the challenges that they face is crucial to addressing local environmental issues. Giving citizens the information that they need to make changes or assisting them with the installation of best management practices helps to make great strides to protect and improve water quality.

One of the main Information & Education (I & E) objectives is to educate youth. Our Department works with the Winneconne Community School District to put together an educational event for fourth grade students every year at the Norbert Rich School Forest. Our department teamed together with the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance to present an educational event for students focusing on Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and Water Quality. This hands-on experience provides education concerning these vital areas of the environment, the problems that are occurring, and what is being done to correct these problems along with information about what the students can do to help protect the environment. Staff also gave a presentation to the students at Trinity Lutheran School in Oshkosh to educate them about soils and why they are important.

LWCD Staff participated in Career

Days for Winneconne and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. These events allow students to understand the different career paths that may be available to them so that they may focus their studies to their career goals. Staff also participated in a spring and a summer tour for Fox Valley Technical College students. These tours expose students to the best management practices that our department works with to protect water quality, what our jobs entail, and the challenges and successes that are experienced.

The LWCD set up staffed and unstaffed displays at various events. These displays allow us to provide information to the community that we might not normally interact with. Displays were presented at the Winnebago County Fair, Bird Fest, and the WPS Farm Show.

LWCD worked with various groups including the Oshkosh Rotary Club, giving awareness to the importance of shoreline buffers and rain gardens. Staff gave a presentation to the River

East Neighborhood association on how to build rain gardens and their importance to stormwater and water quality. A presentation was also given to the Master Gardeners educating them on the use of fertilizers. LWCD staff partnered with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance to help with their 'Everyone on the Water' event. This event provided guided boat tours to the public to educate them about the water resources of the Winnebago System. Employees also collaborated closely with the Friends of the Menominee Park Shoreland to promote shoreline restoration and buffer work.

Beyond the above listed I & E activities the Department participated in various other activities mentioned in different articles in this report, provided contributions to newspaper articles, and participated on several steering teams and work groups. The LWCD continues to be receptive to new opportunities to present to the community and looks forward to being involved in many different I & E Activities in 2019.



Bird Fest display in Menominee Park—Oshkosh

Continued on page 10

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?



Fox Valley Technical College Educational Tour



Wisconsin Public Service Farm Show display



this group of pictures shows the Winneconne 8th Grade Career Day



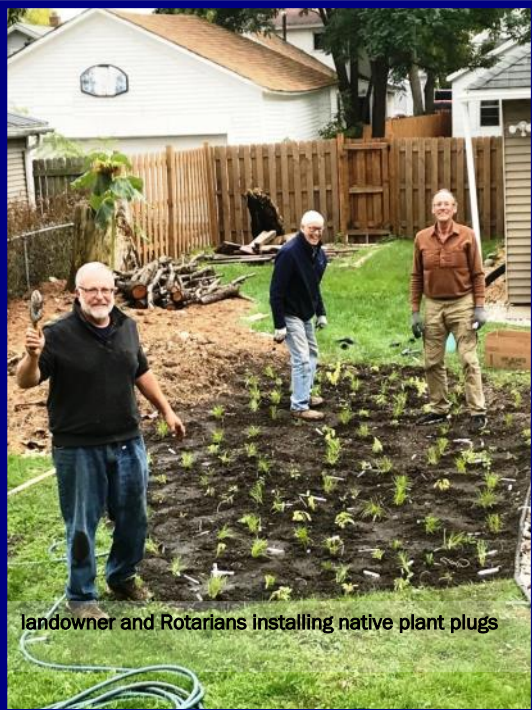
2018 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

By Sheila Smith, Agronomist

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) provides income tax credit to Wisconsin farmers in exchange for keeping land in agricultural use and maintaining compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards (NR151).

County wide, 74 landowners certified in the FPP for the 2017 tax year. Furthermore in 2017, 12,059 acres were certified which generated \$90,443 in tax credits for those Winnebago County participants.

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) continues to assist participants to maintain compliance with the State Ag-Performance Standards. The Farmland Preservation Program will continue through the 2019 tax year.



landowner and Rotarians installing native plant plugs

2018 RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM

By Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist

In 2018 the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department partnered with the Oshkosh Southwest Rotary Club to promote native rain gardens in the City of Oshkosh. The program provided financial assistance and professional guidance with plant recommendations and sizing, siting, and constructing the rain gardens. The Rotarians assisted the homeowners by helping plant the native wildflowers, grasses and sedges in the gardens.

Each rain garden installed is now soaking up rain water by infiltrating into the ground rather than running off, collecting pollutants, and entering the storm sewers. This will help reduce flooding and improve the water quality of our streams and lakes. Rain gardens also enhance homeowners' landscapes while providing valuable habitat for birds and butterflies. The program will continue in 2019 with a goal of installing 3-4 more rain gardens.

UPPER FOX AND WOLF RIVER WATERSHEDS REGIONAL DEMONSTRATION FARMS NETWORK "IN THE WORKS"

By Tom Davies, Director

This fall the Winnebago County LWCD and a host of other surrounding counties in the Upper Fox River and Wolf River Watersheds began planning a regional effort to educate producers on new and innovative strategies to reduce erosion, reduce phosphorus loading to surface water, properly apply and utilize livestock waste, increase soil water holding capacity and improve overall soil health. The education will be provided by select producers that will participate as "Demonstration Farms" and share

their experiences with fellow farmers in the area. The main funding for this project comes from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) along with small amounts from each participating county.

This concept is not new, there is already a very successful Demonstration Farms Network established in the Lower Fox River Watershed. The unique feature of the proposed Upper Fox River and Wolf River Demonstration Farm Network is that one County (Waupaca) will take the administrative lead to reduce the amount of paperwork with NRCS. The

other counties, including Winnebago, will have a sub-agreement with Waupaca County that will detail the requirements of participation.

We are very excited to be working with our neighboring counties and progressive farmers in the area to bring real world, hands-on experience and information to producers in these watersheds.

Nobody knows their land better than the farmers that run it, so there is nobody better to teach farmers than other farmers!

ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST

By Lynette Hein, Administrative Associate

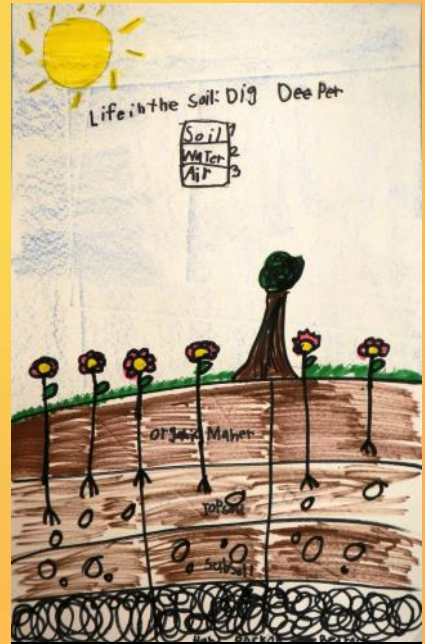
The poster contest's theme this year was "LIFE IN THE SOIL: DIG DEEPER". We had another record year with 287 posters collected for this year's Conservation Poster Contest held on December 6, 2018. This contest was created to promote environmental awareness in youth and was open to Kindergarten through 12th Grade students. The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department would like to extend our "THANKS" to all the students that participated and "CONGRATULATIONS" to all our winners in this year's contest. A special "CONGRATULATIONS" to Winston Ogden who placed second at the WI Land + Water Conservation Association State Poster Contest.



Robert Nagel, 1st Place, Grades K-1, St. Gabriel Elementary



Ben Roth, 2nd Place, Grades K-1, St. Gabriel Elementary



Madalynn Sajdak, 3rd Place, Grades K-1, St. Margaret Mary Elementary



Winston Ogden, 1st Place, Grades 2-3, St. Gabriel Elementary



Sydney Michalkiewicz, 3rd Place, Grades 2-3, St. Margaret Mary Elementary

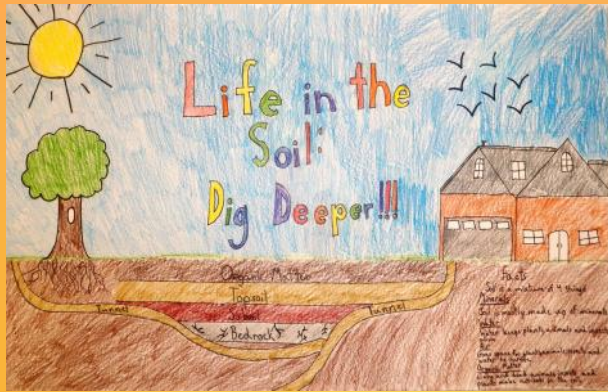


Marit Lettau, 2nd Place, Grades 2-3, Individual

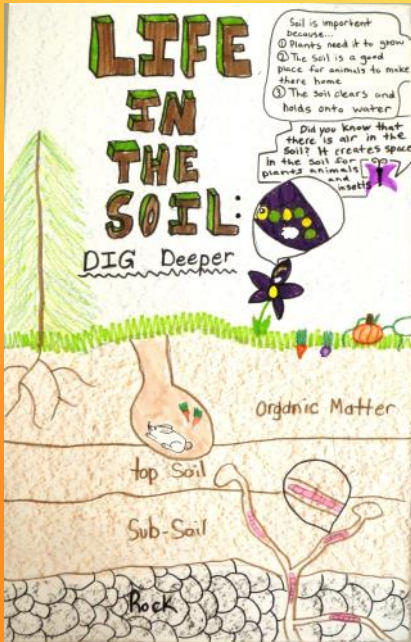
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Olivia Nagel, 1st Place, Grades 4-6, St. Gabriel Elementary



Samantha Weiss, 2nd Place, Grades 4-6, St. Gabriel Elementary



Bethany Ruppert, 3rd Place, Grades 4-6, St. Margaret Mary Elementary



Tiernan Herlihy, 1st Place, Grades 7-9, Trinity Lutheran School



Dalson Troedel, 2nd Place, Grades 7-9, Trinity Lutheran School

TREE SALE

By Lynette Hein, Administrative Associate

In 2018, 9,050 trees and shrubs were planted by landowners in Winnebago County, 1,300 trees were distributed to schools for handing out to students as part of their Arbor Day Program and 7,600 trees and shrubs were planted by landowners outside of Winnebago County. Where do the trees come from? Annually, the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) distributes the trees and shrubs through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Tree Program. The trees mainly come from the WDNR's Wilson Nursery in Boscobel and arrive in mid to late April.

As part of the tree distribution day, the LWCD offers many materials and tools to landowners for ensuring the growth of a healthy tree. In 2018, the

department sold 58 bags of root gel, 1,050 fertilizer tablets, and 101 4 ft. tree shelters. Another service the LWCD offers is the rental of tree planters (a tree planter in use is pictured right). The planters are used mostly by landowners with large tree/shrub amounts. In 2018, four landowners took advantage of our tree planter rental service and planted 8,000 trees. A "Tree Planting Workshop" held prior to tree delivery offers demonstrations on how to plant the trees with either a planter or by using a tree planting bar. All materials and equipment listed above are available year round for purchase and/or rental.

Landowners may purchase the trees and shrubs for installing riparian buffers, creating a wildlife enhancement area, or for tree production. Often, landowners may purchase the trees as part of an incentive program which may include

the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, or Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law.

If you would like to take advantage of our tree distribution for 2020, please contact our office at the beginning of November-2019 for a *2020 Tree and Shrub Application* form.



LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

Chuck Farrey, Chair

Tom Snider, Vice Chair

Steven Binder, Secretary

Bruce Bohn, Citizen Member

Julie Gordon, County Board Member

Ben Joas, County Board Member

Roger Zentner, FSA Member

The Winnebago County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) is a standing committee of the Winnebago County Board. Working through the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department, the LCC provides local leadership and establishes policies for the delivery of land and water resource management programs and services.

MISSION STATEMENT

Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department

Providing a full range of professional services in the planning, design, and performance of programs and projects that PROTECT, RESTORE, and SUSTAIN the natural resources of Winnebago County.



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Visit us on the Web at:

<http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd>

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WINNEBAGO COUNTY

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