2016 WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2017

Inside this issue:

The Lake Poygan Breakwall

By Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist

Lake Poygan is one of the four lakes that make up the Winnebago System. It has a maximum depth of 11 feet and is a little over 14,000 acres in size. Lake Poygan historically supported dense emergent and submergent aquatic vegetation that provided critical habitat for fish and wildlife. Unfortunately aquatic vegetation has since declined throughout the system and Lake Poygan has shifted towards a turbid open water habitat. This has resulted in an overall decrease in submergent and emergent vegetation.

In order to help offset the continuing decline of aquatic vegetation and help improve water quality in Lake Poygan, an expansive breakwall is being planned on the north shore of the lake. Phase 1 of the project was constructed by barge in the summer of 2016. The first phase had 1,170' of rock breakwall installed where the Wolf River outlets into Lake Poygan. The remaining phases of the breakwall design are currently being discussed in great detail. A team of representatives from WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD), and the Lake Poygan Sportsman Club are working together to come up with the best breakwall design for improving water quality, along with the fisheries and wildlife habitat. Monitoring from phase 1 along with wind/wave modeling will be used to assist in the design process. Depending on the final design, the overall breakwall will be around 9,000-11,000 feet in total length and will create 300-540 acres of protected water behind it.

The Poygan breakwall will help prevent turbid river water from flowing through the habitat restoration area. The breakwall will also reduce sediment resuspension within the habitat restoration area by breaking waves and protecting the shoreline of the emergent marsh from further erosion. The breakwall will establish a quiet backwater that will aid in the growth of native submergent and emergent aquatic plants, improve water quality, and create new fish and wildlife habitat. The restoration of aquatic vegetation within the Lake Poygan breakwall will provide nesting, spawning, rearing, and refuge habitat for multiple fish species including bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass, and yellow perch. By enhancing the wetland and creating high quality habitat, this will attract spring and fall migrating waterfowl and also improve habitat for breeding and brood-rearing waterfowl. This project may also re-establish migration habitat for diving ducks which formerly visited the Winnebago pool lakes in large numbers during migrations. Extensive monitoring for water quality, plants, fisheries, and wildlife will be assessed to showcase the overall success of the project.

Ducks Unlimited, WI DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Poygan Sportsman Club, and the Winnebago County LWCD are currently working together on applying for several grants to help fund the design and construction of the next phase which is tentatively scheduled for late 2018.

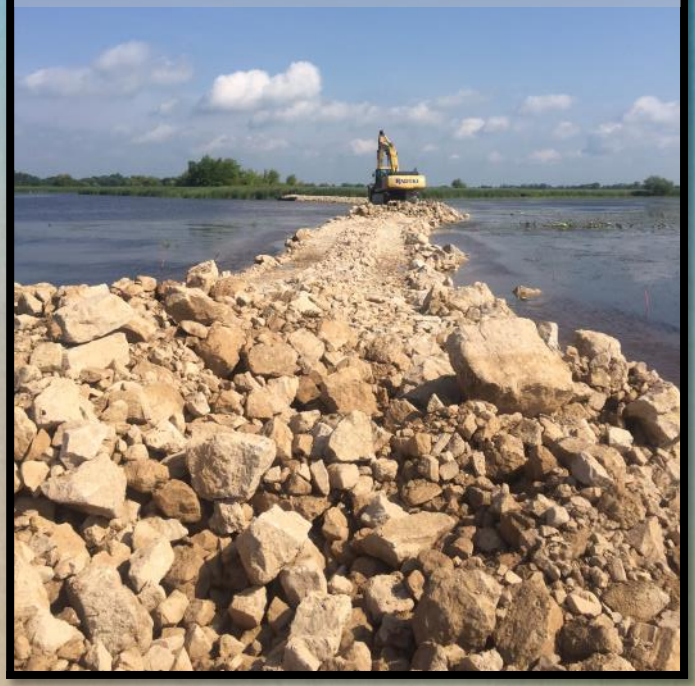
Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

project location on the north shore of Lake Poygan near the Wolf River outlet

equipment working on top of breakwall, shaping to design specifications

since 1941, approximately 366 acres of wetland habitat have disappeared due to wind, wave, and ice action in the project area



barge hauling loads of stone to the project site

installation of grid composite system to reduce settlement and distribute the weight of stone

WINNEBAGO SYSTEM – LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

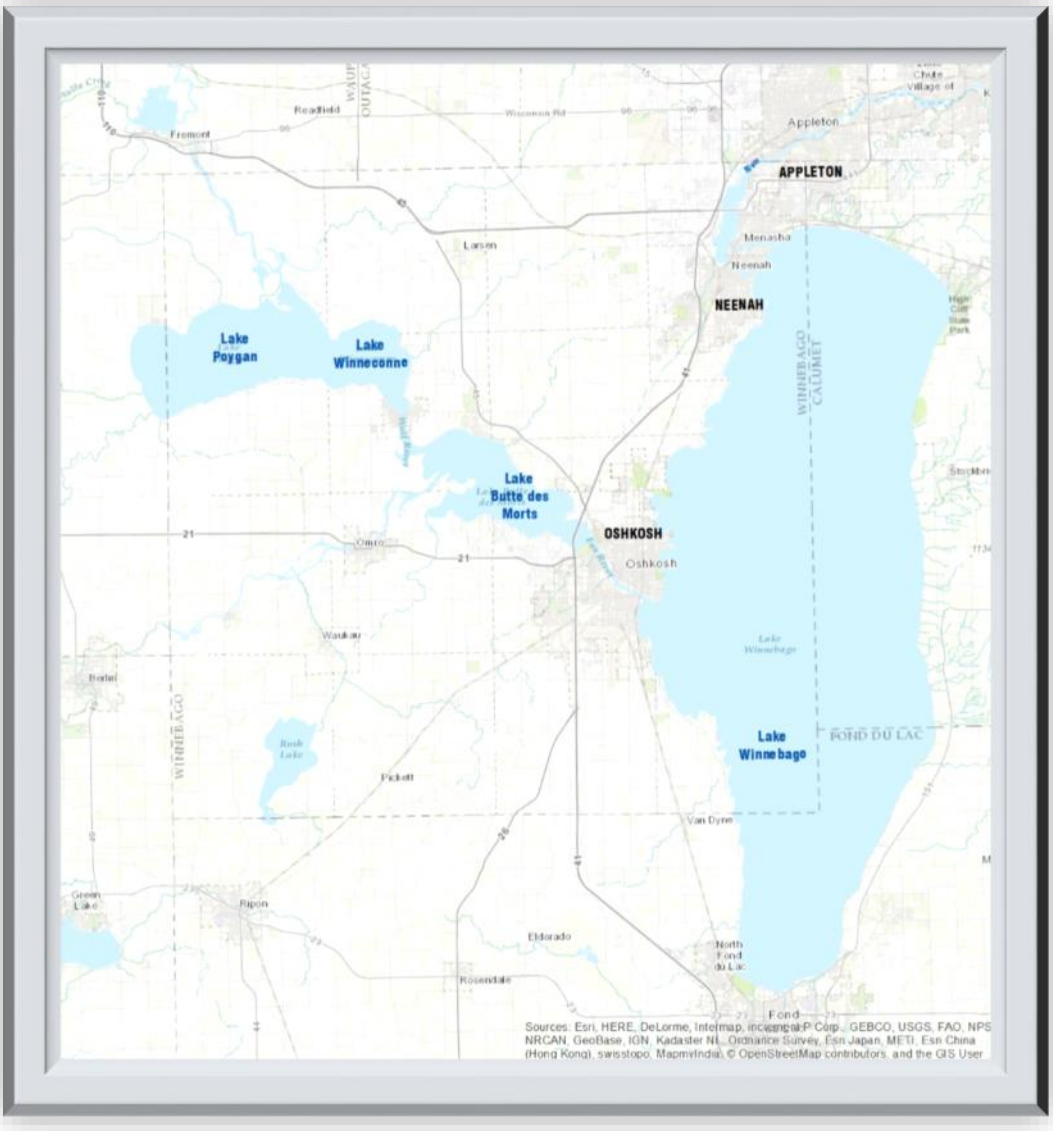
By Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist

The lakes of the Winnebago System are valuable resources and play a vital role in the local economy. These lakes provide a way of life with many long-held family traditions. They offer public parks, beaches, boating, hunting, and an outstanding fishery. In addition, over 250,000 people get their drinking water from Lake Winnebago alone. Impressively the lakes are 167,000 surface acres, which is approximately 17% of the overall surface water found in Wisconsin. It is one of the largest fresh water systems in the United States.

Currently the lakes have several concerns including algal blooms, polluted runoff, and invasive species as some of the top issues. Due to the large size of the Winnebago System, most management issues span multiple jurisdictions making localized management efforts difficult to accomplish. The need for an effective and cost-efficient way to manage the lakes is the reason counties and other agencies have combined their efforts to develop a comprehensive Winnebago System Lake Management Plan (LMP). The document will be one unified LMP for Lake Winnebago, Poygan, Winneconne, and Butte des Morts. The Winnebago System LMP will not be a regulatory document nor will it create a new layer of government. The Winnebago System LMP will be a dynamic document that serves as a guide for strategic and holistic management of our lakes.

The development of a Winnebago System LMP is a monumental undertaking that includes a collaborative effort between several organizations in a five-county region that are working together to achieve this goal. Winnebago, Fond du Lac, and Calumet Counties have approved funding to help advance the Lake Management Planning efforts. This funding was allocated to the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) to hire a project coordinator to help lead the efforts. FWWA applied for and successfully received four DNR Lake Management Planning grants, one for each lake, to help aid in the overall cost of developing the plan.

There will be ample opportunity for stakeholders and the public to provide input throughout the transparent planning process. During the outreach and education efforts, numerous committees and advisory groups will be formed to help gather input, compile existing data on the lakes, and prioritize a list of management action recommendations. In 2017, a consultant will assist in a data gap analysis, develop a work plan, and come up with cost estimates for the final phase of drafting the LMP. The goal is to have the LMP completed by the end of 2018. Once the LMP is complete, the next step will be to implement the recommendations outlined within the document.



Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Begins in the Lower Fox River Watershed

By Tom Davies, Director

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) began working with key landowners and operators in the portion of the Lower Fox River Watershed (LFR) located in Winnebago County to implement the TMDL requirements. A TMDL is the amount of pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet federal water quality standards.

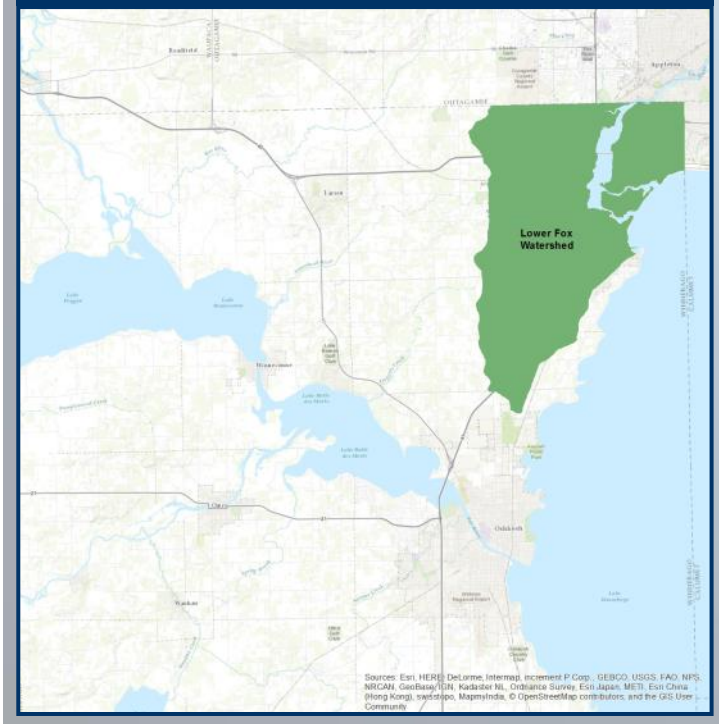
The first step in the process was to identify the priority areas within the sub-watersheds that are contributing the majority of sediment and phosphorus load to the LFR. To accomplish this the "Erosion Vulnerability Assessment for Agricultural Lands (EVAAL)" GIS model was used. EVAAL is designed to quickly identify areas vulnerable to erosion using readily available data. The output of EVAAL pinpoints where conservation assessment efforts should be prioritized. Through the EVAAL data a list of key landowners for TMDL implementation was generated.

In April 2016 key landowners were invited to attend one of three informational meetings regarding the TMDL implementation process. At the meetings, the attendees discussed the issues facing our resources and the issues facing today's landowners and producers. Discussion focused on what practices and management changes might be implemented to improve water quality in the watershed.

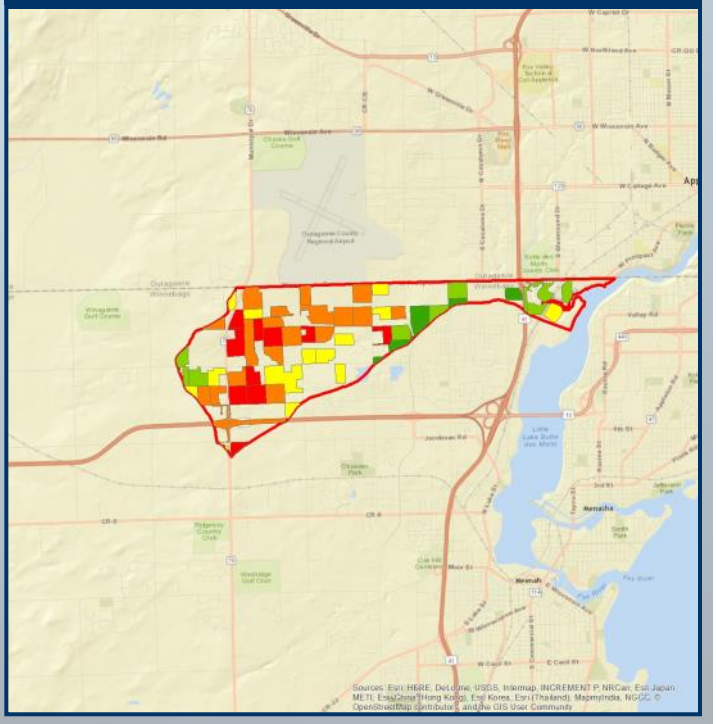
The objective is to work voluntarily with landowners to achieve compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards. The EVAAL model will then be rerun to determine pollution load reductions achieved. Further reductions would be pursued if necessary. Landowners and producers would continue to be actively involved in the process.

Our department is currently working with landowners to inventory cropland and livestock facilities to identify what, if any, conservation practices need to be installed or implemented in the LFR. Several cropland conservation practices have already been constructed to address severe erosion issues. Our department will continue to work with landowners and producers to improve the resources in the LFR and meet the TMDL requirements.

map of Lower Fox Watershed



map showing results of EVAAL model in Mud Creek Watershed



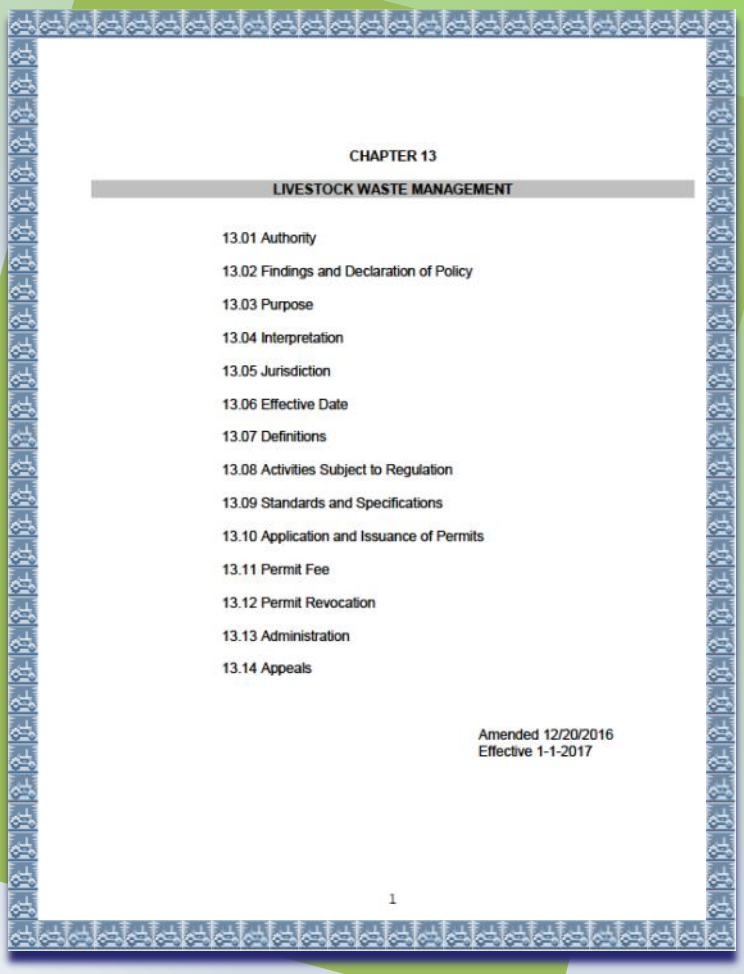
Winnebago County Chapter 13 Livestock Waste Management Ordinance Revisions Approved

By Tom Davies, Director

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved revisions to the Winnebago County Livestock Waste Management Ordinance (LWMO) in December. This approval followed two public hearings, review, and approval by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC). These actions culminated a two year process of review, research, and revision by the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD).

Revisions to the LWMO were necessary to update language, terms, codes, and technical standards that are referenced or used within the document. Unnecessary items were removed and needed changes were made to make the LWMO more consistent and easier to understand and implement. A main goal of this revision was to remove references to specific standards or specifications. This allows for normal changes and updates within the codes without having to update the LWMO.

If you would like to review the updated LWMO, you can find it on the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department website at: www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd.



CHAPTER 13

LIVESTOCK WASTE MANAGEMENT

13.01 Authority
13.02 Findings and Declaration of Policy
13.03 Purpose
13.04 Interpretation
13.05 Jurisdiction
13.06 Effective Date
13.07 Definitions
13.08 Activities Subject to Regulation
13.09 Standards and Specifications
13.10 Application and Issuance of Permits
13.11 Permit Fee
13.12 Permit Revocation
13.13 Administration
13.14 Appeals

Amended 12/20/2016
Effective 1-1-2017

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Winnebago County LWCD and NRCS Administer $1,122,957 in Grant Funding

By Tom Davies, Director

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) applied for and received $269,694 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 $84,000 of cost share funds for county landowners through the Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program. The LWCD also carried over $105,567 of state and local contracted cost share funds from 2014 and 2015 to be utilized in 2016.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provided $282,343 for the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) contracted through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and $381,353 in incentives to producers/ landowners for current and new conservation minded farming practices through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

These funds, totaling $1,122,957 are 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.

2016 Soil Health Field Days

"Seeing is Believing"

Hosted by Gehrke Family Farm

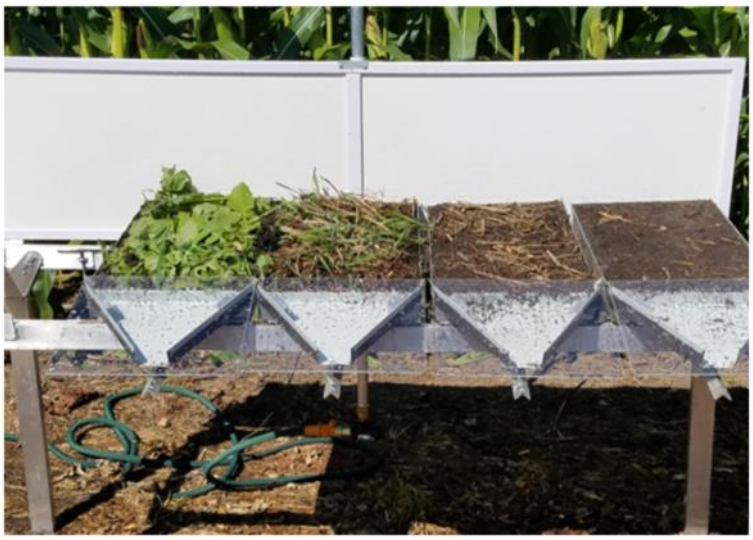
By Tom Davies, Director

During a very hot week in August, after months of preparation by the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the University of WI Extension (UWEX), Rocco Lewis, and Ron and Rick Gehrke and their families, a three day soil health education course was presented. The goal was to educate agency professionals from UWEX, NRCS, County LWCDs, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) along with producers, agronomists, the general public, students and educators. Each day was designed to focus on different groups.

The overall aim of the field day was to present "soil health" as it relates to soil formation under prairie conditions, the best agricultural soils in the world, versus conventional agricultural systems and soils. Prairie soils are the most productive because of how they were developed. Prairie soils had infrequent disturbance by grazing and fire without tillage and a thorough coverage of very diverse perennial vegetation with living roots in the ground year round.

Every session compared local soils from three field areas with different management systems. Fields farmed with no-till and cover crops were compared to conventional tillage systems and undisturbed soils from fence rows through various tabletop tests. An excavated soils pit was also utilized to allow individuals to examine and identify the differences in soil structure and soil health with different management systems. During the session with producers, agronomists and the general public, the participants were very fortunate to learn from Dave Robison, Indiana farmer and soil health expert on the program, who shared his experience and observations of over thirty years of no-till farming with cover crops.

This year for the first time we were able to use a rainfall simulator that applied "rain" on sample sections of crop fields that were taken from different areas on the site representing the different management systems. The runoff and infiltrated rainfall was captured in clear containers to effectively demonstrate the many benefits of good soil structure and living cover. Each time the results of the rainfall simulation were observed by the audience, a buzz of "that's incredible" could readily be heard throughout the group. The no-till field sections with cover crops had tremendous infiltration with very little runoff, and what did run off was very clean. The conventionally tilled field sections with little residue and no cover crops had a tremendous amount of soil laden runoff and very little infiltration due to poor soil structure.



rainfall simulator: used to show the difference in infiltration and runoff of different crop management systems

This soil health field day very clearly demonstrated that there is not a runoff problem in agriculture, there is an infiltration problem. This can also be seen through years of world-wide crop yield testing, herbicide research and soil science. Studies have shown there is absolutely no reason to till the soil for crop production. This event also demonstrated the soil structure building capabilities of no-tilled land with cover crops versus conventionally tilled fields and helped participants visualize the critical differences in infiltration and water holding capacity. For the sake of our valuable agricultural and natural resources, let's hope that "seeing is believing" for our current and future producers.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Phil Meyer, NRCS Soil Scientist describes the dramatic differences in soil structure produced by conventional tillage, no-till, and no-till with cover crops in the soil pit

Phil Meyer and Pat Lake, NRCS review the process of removing the slabs of soil from the crop fields and how the rainfall simulator works

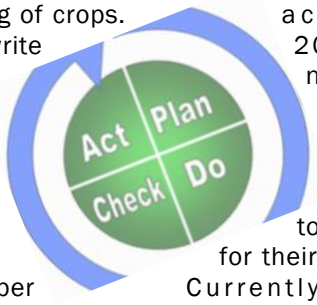
rainfall simulator in action, notice the difference in water clarity and infiltration with no-till and cover crops on the left vs. conventional tillage and no cover crops on the right

A special thanks to Zillges Excavating for donating the soil pit excavation, Beck's Meats for donating snacks, and AgSource Labs for donating the soil testing, your donations and assistance were much appreciated!

Nutrient Management Planning

By Sheila Smith, Agronomist

Nutrient management farmer training classes were held again in 2016 with nine producers operating 4,938 acres in attendance. Farmers develop a better understanding about the steps taken to write a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) and gain basic knowledge about soil, nutrients, manure, and the growing of crops. Farmers who write their own plans must retake the class every four years to stay qualified.



The total number of NMP acres for 2016 was 59,293, a 6% increase (3,443 acres) from 2015. Three new farms with 3,359 acres have received state funded cost sharing to write a NMP for their farm in 2017. Currently, 54% of Winnebago County farmland has a NMP. This illustrates the priority the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department has placed on this practice and the impact of the State Agricultural Performance Standards on ag producers within Winnebago County.

State Agricultural Performance Standards

By Sheila Smith, Agronomist

NR151: Runoff Management is Wisconsin's administrative code that establishes polluted runoff performance standards for agricultural facilities and practices, as well as non-agricultural practices. These Ag Performance Standards are intended to be the minimum requirements to protect water quality. The code also establishes implementation and enforcement provisions.

The standards and prohibitions are intended to protect water quality by minimizing the amount of soil erosion, nutrients from manure and croplands, and other nonpoint source pollutants that enter waterways. The following eight key elements are used for evaluating Ag Performance Standards:

- sheet, rill, and wind erosion,
- manure storage facilities,
- clean water diversions,
- nutrient management planning,
- tillage setbacks,
- phosphorous index,
- wastewater handling,
- fertilizer and manure management

Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) employees are contacting farmers throughout the county in an effort to assess their current compliance status with state Ag Performance Standards. LWCD employees are informing farmers about the standards, how they affect their operation, and what is required to bring them into compliance.

Currently, many landowners are in the process of getting their cropland and/or facilities in compliance. To date, a total of 17,422 cropland acres and 94 farms have been certified compliant.

2016 Farmland Preservation Program

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, 80 landowners were certified in FPP for the 2015 tax year. Furthermore in 2015, 12,935 acres were certified which generated $97,013 in tax credits for those Winnebago County participants.

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) continues to assist participants in maintaining compliance with the State Ag-Performance Standards. Starting in the 2016 tax year, all Certificates of Compliance must have a Department of Revenue (DOR) approved number. This DOR number will be on the Certificate of Compliance that a participant receives at their Annual Certification appointment.

The Farmland Preservation Plan for Winnebago County is currently being written for 2018 and beyond.

Information and Education

By Melanie Leet, Conservation Technician

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) staff works closely with the farmers and landowners of Winnebago County to protect groundwater and surface water resources. A large component of preserving water resources is through education of not only the problems we are facing, but also how they can be prevented. The LWCD staff works with all ages and backgrounds to instill a conservation ethic and improve our water resources.

This year our department worked in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to put together an educational field day for Winneconne fourth grade students at the Norbert Rich School Forest. Four stations are set up to teach them about water quality, forestry, wildlife, and soils. The students are educated about our natural resources and what can be done to help improve and protect them. This hands on experience continues to be one of our most popular events with students and will hopefully continue to grow.

Our staff also had the opportunity to work with middle school groups from Winneconne and Oshkosh at two separate career days providing information on the importance of water quality and the careers that may be available to them in conservation.

LWCD staff also coordinated a spring and a fall educational tour with students from Fox Valley Technical College and a spring tour with students from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO). These tours showed the students the various projects that LWCD installed and gave them an idea of what careers may be available to them. By meeting with different agencies and businesses, the students can decide on a career area and focus their studies and course selection.

The LWCD technical staff, along with the surrounding counties technicians and the Department of

Continued on page 10

(below) Winneconne Career Day, (right) Conservation Field Day

Continued from page 9

Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Engineers, put together an informational session for concrete contractors in the area to discuss the changes to the Wisconsin Concrete Spec. 4. The purpose was to avoid problems by educating them on the new changes before construction season began.

The LWCD also provided information through staffed and unstaffed displays. These displays provided a great deal of information to the public that our department may not typically encounter. The department placed these displays at the Winnebago County Fair, Bird Fest, and the WPS Farm Show.

LWCD has also worked with various groups giving presentations on the importance of shoreline habitat buffers in protecting our lakes and river systems. Technical staff also worked closely with UWO as the students conducted a local study and generated a report on the City of Oshkosh and its shorelines. This study will work to justify the importance of shoreline habitat buffers and identify the challenges of implementation. LWCD also assisted UWO with the funding and planning for a shoreline habitat restoration project demo site on the Fox River adjacent to a heavily utilized recreational trail on campus.

Beyond these Information and Education activities, LWCD staff contributed to numerous newspaper articles, participated on several steering teams and work groups, and took part in other training and educational activities mentioned in other articles in this report.

LWCD continues to be receptive to new opportunities for sharing information with the community. If you are interested in learning more please contact our office to discuss how we can participate.

(top) Contractor Training, (middle left) FVTC Educational Tour, (middle-right) UWO Field Tour, (bottom-left & bottom-right) WI Woodland Owners Assoc. Conf. presentation

2016 Installed Best Management Practices

By Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) has several funding sources available to provide cost sharing for the installation of eligible conservation projects. These funds financially aid landowners with the installation of various eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs). Along with the funding assistance, our department provides surveying, engineering designs, 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 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 2016 with and without cost sharing.

livestock waste storage facility

Best Management Practice	Units Installed
Access Road	468 lin. ft.
Critical Area Planting	8.1 acres
Fence	1,250 lin. ft.
Grassed Waterway	2,578 lin. ft.
Heavy Use Area Protection	1,000 sq. ft.
Lined Waterway or Outlet	55 lin. ft.
Livestock Pipline	2,216 lin. ft.
Pumping Plant	1 ea.
Stream Crossing	2 ea.
Streambank/Shoreline Protection	1,170 ft.
Underground Outlet	1,690 ft.
Waste Storage Facility	2 ea.
Waste Transfer System	1 ea.
Well Decommissioning	16 ea.
Wetland Restoration	4.8 acres

grassed waterway with machinery crossing

wetland restoration

James P. Coughlin Center Rain Garden Demonstration

By Chad Casper, Resource Conservationist and Melanie Leet, Conservation Technician

In the early summer of 2016, the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department, Winnebago County UW-Extension, Winnebago County Facilities and Property Management Department, Master Gardeners, and the City of Oshkosh partnered to construct demonstration rain gardens with an upland natural planting outside of the James P. Coughlin (JPC) building. The JPC building has over 12,000 people annually coming through its doors which offers a great opportunity to showcase the educational project. The demonstration area is approximately 5,000 square feet and contains two rain gardens planted with native plants. The goal for the project was to display rain gardens and describe their benefits. It also demonstrates how rain gardens can coexist within existing landscaping.

volunteers at the James P. Coughlin Center on planting day

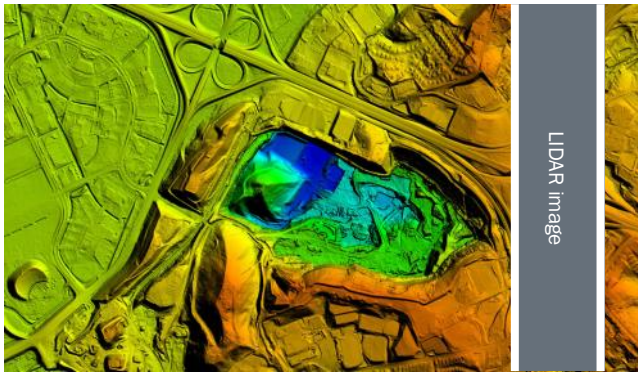
The project has been a success and couldn't have happened without the help of all of the partners and volunteers. On the day of the planting we had over 30 volunteers who dedicated their time to install nearly 1,100 perennials and shrubs representing nearly 50 different varieties of plants. We will continue to add plants as needed and educational signage will be installed in 2017 for visitors to learn about the project. The next time you are in Oshkosh stop by the JPC building and take a look.

Technology Trends

By Andy Maracini, GIS Specialist

It has been said the one constant is change and that is certainly true when speaking of technology. Several technology trends and advancements that we have been following, and in some cases, starting to implement are: LIDAR data, mobile mapping, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) mapping and photography. Winnebago County has recently acquired LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data and will begin using it as part of our overall design and construction activities in 2017. LIDAR data is highly accurate and will greatly improve our ability to assess site conditions, run computer/GIS models, and design projects using AutoCAD. Smartphones and tablets are now becoming the tool of choice for workers in the field. We have been testing a number of technologies and have deployed an "app" that allows our technicians to use a smartphone or tablet in the field to map and document potential resource concerns quickly and eliminate the need to transfer data or notes from the field to the office. Lastly, the use of UAVs or drones has been a very active topic in agriculture. We have done a considerable amount of research and believe this technology has numerous applications in our work such as; construction monitoring, site assessment, and field inspections. These are just a few of the types of technological advancements that we have been working on in 2016 and look forward to continuing to explore as we move forward into 2017.

UAV/drone

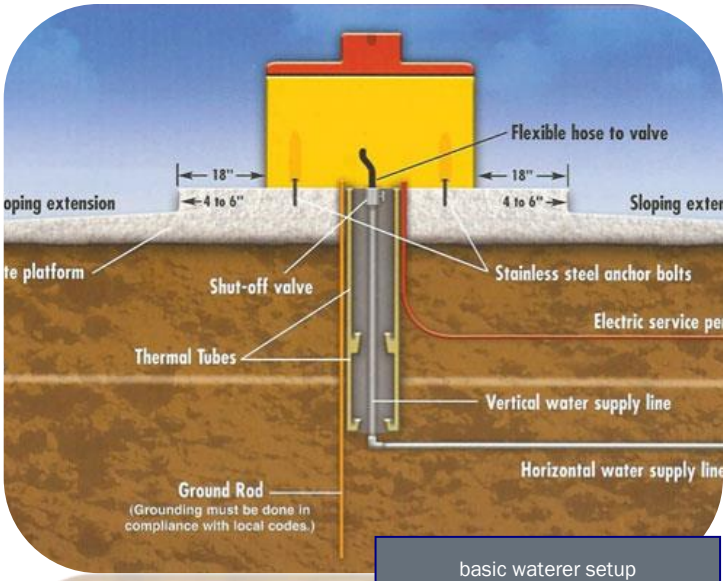


LIDAR image

Cattle Watering Systems

By Michael Haase, Conservation Technician

This past year I designed and oversaw the installation of two cattle watering systems. The systems have a two basin waterer that is attached to a plastic flexible hose that runs underground from the well. The waterer has either a light bulb or some other electric heat source to keep the water from freezing in the winter allowing it to be utilized year round. The cattle quickly learn to push down to release the water for drinking. The waterer is surrounded by a concrete pad with limestone screenings to protect the area from getting muddy from the extra cattle traffic. These systems work well for the farmer who plans on rotationally grazing their animals. Rotational grazing of cattle can be extremely conservation friendly as it decreases the cropping of fields which greatly reduces soil erosion. Rotational grazing can also eliminate manure handling for the livestock owner. These systems can be very cost effective and can help reduce time as well as labor for small to medium sized producers.



basic waterer setup

semi flexible pipe

concrete pad with area elevated for waterer

waterer on concrete pad for easy cleaning

Tree Sale

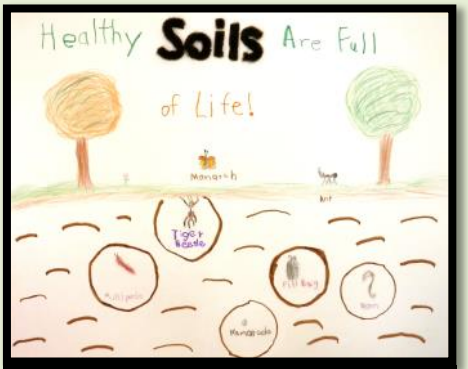
By Lynette Hein, Secretary

Again this year, the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) held their annual distribution of trees and shrubs to aid landowners inside and outside of Winnebago County. The trees and shrubs arrived on April 21, 2016 through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Tree Program from their Griffith Nursery in Wisconsin Rapids.

In 2016, 13,625 trees and shrubs were planted by landowners in Winnebago County and 18,100 trees and shrubs were planted by landowners outside of Winnebago County. We had thirteen schools participate this year, all within the Menasha, Neenah, Omro and Oshkosh school districts. Students were given a total of 1,000 trees as part of observing Arbor Day.

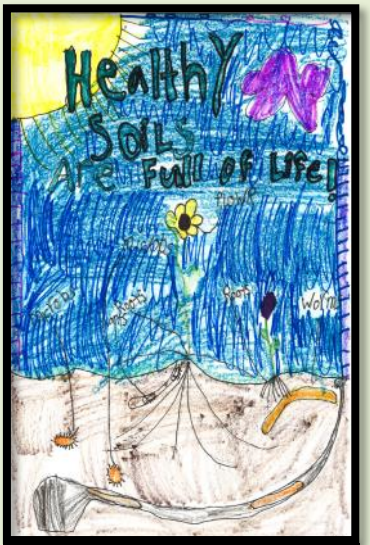
The LWCD also offers many materials and tools to help landowners in the growth of their new seedlings. Root gel, fertilizer tablets, and 4 foot Tubex tree shelters are also available for purchase during the tree distribution day. Another service the LWCD offers is the rental of tree planters. The planters are used mostly by landowners that have large numbers of trees/shrubs. A "Tree Planting Workshop" held prior to tree delivery offers an opportunity for landowners to learn how to plant the trees with a planter or with a tree planting bar. All materials and equipment listed in this article are available throughout the year for purchase or rent and can be found on our website @ http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd.

If you would like to take advantage of our tree distribution for 2018, please contact our office at the beginning of November-2017 for a *2018 Spring Tree and Shrub Application* form.



Marit Lettau, 1st Place,
Grades K-1, Individual Entry

Winston Ogden, 2nd Place,
Grades K-1, St. Gabriel Elementary



Gretchen Strande, 3rd Place,
Grades K-1, St. Margaret Mary Elementary

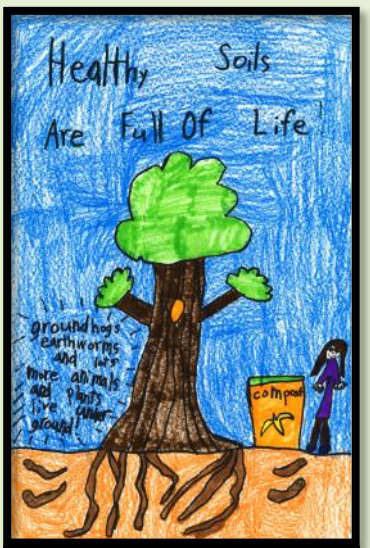
2017 Poster Contest

By Lynette Hein, Secretary

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) held its "2017 Conservation Awareness Poster Contest" on December 1, 2016. This year's theme was **"Healthy Soils Are Full of Life!"** and was open to Kindergarten through 12th Grade students. 158 posters were collected for this years contest with four posters continuing on to participate in the Lake Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Association's (LWLWCA) Area Poster Contest. Ramya Khelgi's poster *(located in the bottom right corner)* competed in the Area Poster Contest in the Grades 4-6 group and won 1st Place. Ramya's poster will continue on to compete at the Wisconsin Land+Water Annual Conference on March 16, 2017 at the state level.

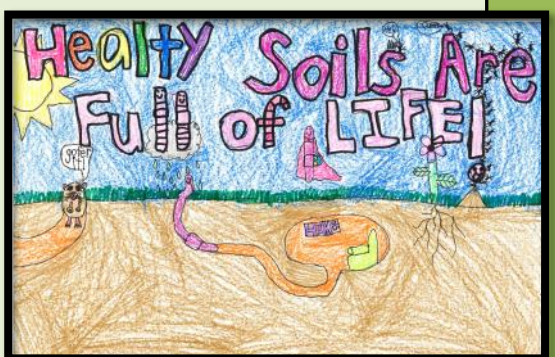
The Winnebago County LWCD would like to extend our "congratulations" and "thanks" to all the students who participated in this year's contest.

If you would like to participate in our next poster contest this coming fall, please contact our office in late August for this year's theme.



Abigail McClone, 1st Place,
Grades 2-3, St. Margaret Mary Elementary

Esther Pingel, 3rd Place,
Grades 2-3, St. Gabriel Elementary

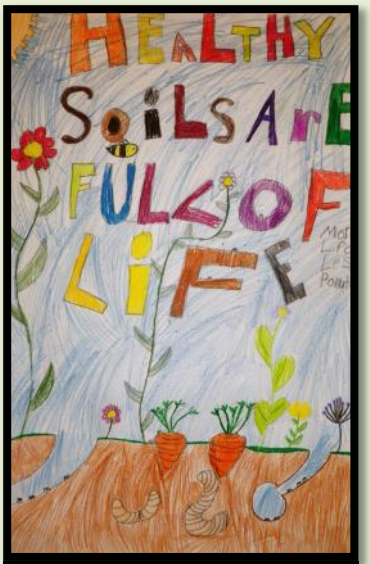


Greta Goethel, 2nd Place,
Grades 2-3, St. Margaret Mary Elementary

Ramya Khelgi, 1st Place,
Grades 4-6, Clayton Elementary

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

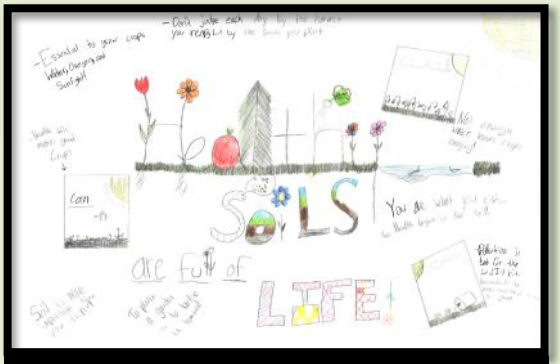


Samantha Hooyman, 2nd Place,
Grades 4-6, Clayton Elementary

Addison Cook, 3rd Place,
Grades 4-6, Clayton Elementary

Ainsley Moore, 2nd Place,
Grades 7-9, Trinity Lutheran School

Gretta Milos, 1st Place,
Grades 7-9, Trinity Lutheran School

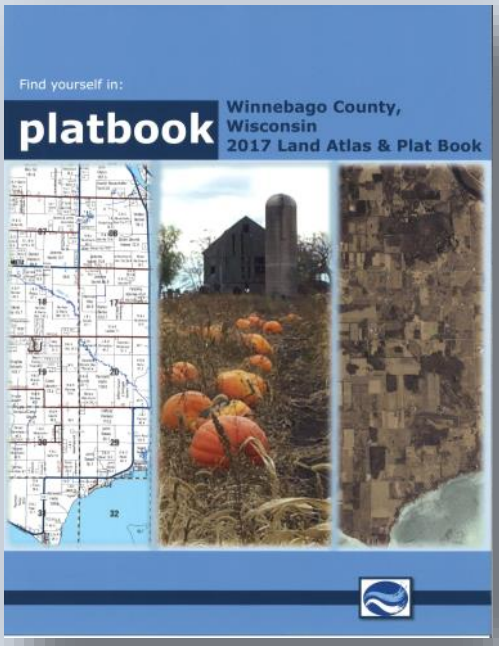


Isaac Klessig, 3rd Place,
Grades 7-9, Trinity Lutheran School

(left to right) Addison Cook, Ramya Khelgi, and Samantha Hooyman holding prizes won from participating in the Poster Contest

Ms. Wenig's 5th Grade Class at Clayton Elementary School holding their posters and participation certificates

New 2017 Land Atlas and Plat Book



By Andy Maracini, GIS Specialist

FOR SALE

The LWCD has published an updated 2017 Land Atlas and Plat Book. The new plat book replaces the prior edition of the book which was published in 2012. The new plat book features updated aerial photography from 2015 as well as any land ownership changes that occurred from the last printing. The plat book was created completely in-house using ESRI GIS software and a variety of other standard desktop publishing software packages. The plat book may be purchased by visiting our office or by submitting an order request online at: https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd/rental-and-sales. The cost is $34.00 excluding tax and any shipping charges.

Visit us on the Web at:
http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd

Land Conservation Committee Directory

Chuck Farrey, *Chair*

Tom Snider, *Vice Chair*

Nancy Barker, *Secretary*

Bruce Bohn, *Citizen Member*

Guy Hegg, *County Board Member*

Larry Kriescher, *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.

Find us on Facebook

Staff Directory

Tom Davies, *Director*

Chad Casper, *Resource Conservationist*

Mike Haase, *Conservation Technician*

Lynette Hein, *Administrative Associate*

Sheila Smith, *Agronomist*

Melanie Leet, *Conservation Technician*

Andy Maracini, *GIS Specialist*

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