

OVERVIEW OF REVISED AND EXPANDED
INITIAL CONCEPTS TO ADVANCE A REVISED AND
UPDATED LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. Community Outreach & Educational Support

- Develop institutional framework and management structure to further engage citizen volunteers, civic organizations, and youth to pursue resource management program objectives:
 - i. Determine staff roles/responsibilities for volunteer support.
 - ii. Evaluate Rusk County Volunteer Challenge model; determine concepts that may transfer.
- Use existing educational institutions and community organization as the primary delivery mechanism for community outreach and educational support.
 - Establish formal relationship and working agreement with Chippewa County Extension for delivery of select conservation related programs and projects.
 - 1. Determine interest and opportunity to develop a five (5) year educational work plan that would meet the common needs of LCC, USDA, DNR/DATCP, and UWEX.
 - Establish working relationships with youth based community organizations (Scouts, 4-H, FFA, others) to provide opportunities for applied environmental education and civic engagement.
 - 1. Participate in 4-H strategic planning in 2018-2019 to assess interest on behalf of 4-H clubs.
 - Establish working relationships with public educational institutions (K-12) to identify existing educational programs that focus on the earth, biological, and agricultural sciences.
 - Determine opportunity to:
 - 1. Inform local educators of land and water resource management issues and management objectives.
 - 2. Collaborate on short-term projects or longer term programming to meet mutual objectives.
 - Establish working relationship with post-secondary education institutions (technical college, UW system, others) to sponsor applied research, special environmental studies, and opportunities for student internship.

II. “Conservation on the Land”

- Maintain current balance of voluntary, incentive-based programs, administered in conjunction with targeted regulatory-based programs. **Apply State Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions as core conservation standard for implementation and tracking.**

Voluntary

- Develop and apply voluntary programs on a county-wide basis.
 - ❖ Develop & implement a program ~~and client base~~ to create and apply conservation leases, that **serve to implement** ~~meet~~ state agricultural cropping and nutrient management performance standards, working through landowners who lease cropland to crop producers.
 - ❖ With agricultural producers, develop and implement an expanded voluntary conservation buffer initiative.
 - ❖ **With larger scale cash grain producers and irrigators, develop, and implement pilot project(s) to evaluate emerging technology that can be applied to optimize inputs, limit environmental concerns, and sustain crop production.**

Regulatory

- Limit targeted agricultural regulations to new and expanding operations, and to **agricultural high discharging** operations subject to public complaint.
- Pursue and support economic development initiatives to **preserve farmland** and support the economic viability, diversity, and sustainability of local farms, farm related businesses, and agricultural processors.
 - **Actively encourage and support the development and accelerated implementation of Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA’s).**
 - ❖ **With existing AEA petitioners, determine interest and business related opportunities. Develop grant proposals.**
- **Apply the current a public/private sector watershed business model (fashioned after Little Lake Wisconsin Stewardship Project (LLWSP) to pursue State surface ~~local~~ water quality objectives:**
 - **Respond to proposals.** Work with advocates and stakeholders to secure community and corporate project sponsors.
- Establish local programming objectives to:
 1. Adapt to climate change, and
 2. Limit the rate and extent of climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

Approaches to Adapt to Climate Change (Necessary, Reasonable, Achievable)

- With UWEX, seed companies, and agricultural co-cops, establish test trials for crop varieties and cropping systems that are best suited to changing conditions. Locate test trial sites at locations throughout the County that are representative of mapped geologic deposits, and associated soils associations.
- Establish an invasive species inventory, response and control program.
- Other?

Approaches to Reduce Carbon Emissions (Necessary, Reasonable, Achievable)

- Identify things internal to LCFM & County operations.
- Identify things external to County operations.

III. Resource Inventory & Monitoring

- Evaluate and invest in satellite-based remote sensing and other developing technology to monitor:
 - i. Land & agricultural cropping systems (cover crops/no till).
 - ii. Condition of lakes & streams.
 - iii. Soil organic matter & phosphorus.

- Actively maintain all components of the Chippewa Co. Groundwater Inventory to monitor groundwater elevations and groundwater quality through time.

- Actively maintain GIS based tracking system to show:
 - i. Location of parcels meeting NR 151 performance standards.
 - ii. Location of contracted conservation buffers and easements.
 - iii. Other parameters to track progress.

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