

**OVERVIEW OF NEW OR EXPANDED  
CONCEPTS TO ADVANCE A REVISED  
LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**I. Community Outreach & Educational Support**

**A. Educational Support**

- Use existing educational institutions and community organizations as the primary delivery mechanism for community outreach and educational support.
  - Establish a Chippewa County Agricultural Agency Education Coordinating Council to:
    - a. Facilitate structured communication among public agencies responsible for agricultural outreach, agricultural education, and agriculturally-based program administration.
    - b. Develop and oversee the implementation of an annual interagency soil and water conservation education work plan, to advance the goals and objectives of the Chippewa Co. Land & Water Resource Mgt. Plan.
    - c. Develop and oversee the implementation of other educational outreach activities of value to agriculture and to the public in Chippewa County.
  - Apply the annual education work plan to identify and pursue opportunities to improve the public's understanding of agriculture and agricultural operations.
  - Establish structured ag. agency reporting, to and between, the Chippewa Co. LCFM Committee and Chippewa Co. Farm Service Committee.
  - Expand working relationships and develop agreements with youth-based community organizations (Scouts, 4-H, FFA, others) to provide opportunities for applied environmental education and civic engagement.
    - a. Participate in 4-H strategic planning process in 2019 to assess interest on behalf of 4-H leaders clubs.
  - Establish working relationships with public educational institutions (K-12) to identify existing educational programs that focus on the earth, biological, and agricultural sciences.
  - Maintain and expand working relationships with post-secondary education institutions( technical college, UW system,) to sponsor applied research, special environmental studies, and opportunities for student internship.

## B. Community Outreach

- Develop institutional framework and management structure to further engage citizen volunteers, civic organizations, and youth to pursue resource management program objectives:
  - Apply existing policy and program framework (F&T Div.) to recruit, train, and manage volunteers.
    - a. Conduct needs assessment to evaluate LCFM staff & conservation organization capacity to expand community engagement.
    - b. Evaluate the “Rusk County Volunteer Challenge” model to determine concepts that may transfer.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing a working arrangement with the County court system to provide opportunities for conservation-based community service projects for troubled youth or for low risk non-violent offenders.

## **II. “Conservation on the Land”**

- Maintain the current balance of voluntary (incentive-based) conservation programs administered in conjunction with targeted regulatory programs. This coordinated program approach will be supported by a robust and targeted educational program.
- Systematically apply and administer the WI State Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions, as established in NR 151, as a core foundational element for delivery of soil and water conservation educational programming, technical support, and financial assistance, as directed to agricultural producers and agricultural landowners.

### A. Voluntary Program Focus

- Pursue and support economic development initiatives to support the economic viability, diversity, and sustainability of local farms, farm related businesses, and agricultural processors.
  - Establish structured communication with the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) to identify and support agricultural business opportunities.
  - With existing AEA petitioners, determine interest in agribusiness and economic development related opportunities. Develop a pilot project proposal and pursue grant opportunities.
- Develop and implement voluntary incentive-based programs to be administered on a county-wide basis.
  - With ag producers and landowners, develop and implement a program to create and apply standardized conservation leases, that incorporate state agricultural cropping and nutrient management performance standards.
  - 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.
  - With agricultural producers, develop and implement an expanded voluntary conservation buffer initiative, to expand the utility of the WI CREP Program.

- To pursue State and local surface water quality objectives, apply the current a public/private sector watershed business model (fashioned after Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project), to organize and target available resources:
  - Respond to proposals by project sponsors. Work with advocates and stakeholders to secure community support.

B. Regulatory Focus

- Update the County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to create new agricultural districts for consideration by the Towns that would limit residential development and facilitate livestock expansion in areas planned for agricultural production.
- Develop, update, and implement a revised livestock ordinance that will apply to new and expanding livestock operations, to agricultural operations subject to public complaint, and to operations that, in the future, intend to apply direct storage/field transfer dragline technology.

C. Climate Change

- Establish a local program with earmarked budget allocations, to adapt to climate change.
  - Actively inventory, evaluate, and pursue grant opportunities.
  - Factor climate change into County operational plans as these plans affect:
    - a. Emergency response and disaster relief.
    - b. Road and dam infrastructure as managed by the County Depts.
    - c. Management of the County Forest resources.
    - d. Soil and water conservation, stormwater1/18/ management, and flood prevention on private lands.
    - e. Co. energy use.
  - Establish an invasive species inventory, response and control program for public and private lands.
  - 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.

**III. Resource Monitoring & Administrative Tracking**

- Evaluate and invest in high resolution satellite imagery services, and other remote sensing technology to measure and monitor the condition of land and water resources.
- Actively maintain all components of the Chippewa Co. Groundwater Inventory to record well construction data, and to monitor groundwater elevations and groundwater quality through time.
- Actively apply the existing County (GIS-based) tracking system to monitor soil and water conservation contract and regulatory compliance, and to track the progress being made to implement the WI Agricultural Performance Standards.

#### **IV. Plan Implementation**

- With cooperating agencies and organizations, systematically pursue program objectives and scheduled activities through annual budgets and annual work plans.
- Systematically apply well-defined performance measures and reporting procedures to evaluate and track progress toward meeting program objectives and scheduled activities, using established administrative tracking and resource monitoring processes..

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