



LAND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

John Lefebvre
Director

Greg Cleereaman
Conservationist

Tina Barnes
Property Lister

AGENDA LAND INFORMATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, May 12th 2014
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Marinette County Courthouse - Land Information Department Meeting Room
(C129)

1. Call meeting to order
2. Welcome Supervisor Gilbert Engel to the Committee.
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes of the April 14th 2014 meeting.
5. Public Comment - Any person desirous of addressing the Committee on any subject under the Committee's jurisdiction shall first obtain permission from the Committee Chairperson. All such addresses shall be limited to 5 minutes unless otherwise extended by the Committee Chairperson.
6. Discuss/consider major projects or purchases within the next 5 years to be included on the Capital Improvement Program list for Marinette County. Action, if any.
7. Discuss/consider Town of Peshtigo zoning amendment to rezone a portion of parcel number 024-00680.003 from A-2 Agricultural/Rural Residential District to A-1 Agricultural District. Action, if any.
8. Discuss/consider Land Information Committee Members attending the Lake Michigan Land & Water Conservation Association Spring Conference at the Landmark Resort in Egg Harbor on May 30, 2014. Action, if any.
9. Discuss/consider the Marinette County Invasive Species Strategic Plan. Action, if any.
10. Correspondence. Action, if any. (Correspondence if not specifically listed below will be for information only)
 - Thursday Note
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service ~ Farm Bill
11. Report(s) by Land Information Staff on Departmental programs and activities. Action, if any.
 - Spring County Conservationist Meeting
 - Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention
 - Aquatic Invasive species Coordinators Spring Meeting
12. Review schedule of invoices April 2014. Action, if any.
13. Schedule next meeting ~ Monday, June 9, 2014
14. Identify possible items for discussion and consideration at the next meeting
15. Adjourn



Alice Baumgarten
Clancy Whiting
Ellen Sorensen

Ted Sauve
Robert Holley
Renee Miller

Gilbert Engel
Mary Noll
Kathy Brandt

NOTE: Agenda items may not be considered and acted upon in the order listed

If you are an individual with a disability and need a special accommodation while attending this meeting, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify the County Clerk, Marinette County Courthouse (715-732-7406) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting in order to make suitable arrangements. Thank you. (TDD# 715-732-7760)



OFFICE OF
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

ELLEN C. SORENSEN
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

JENNIFER SEGUIN
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

To: Land Information Committee

From: Ellen C. Sorensen, County Administrator 

Date: April 29, 2014

Re: Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

At its January 31, 2012 meeting, the Marinette County Board of Supervisors approved a Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The purpose of the plan is to set a realistic schedule of capital improvements that can be implemented within the limits of the county's financial resources. Department heads have worked to put together a proposed project list over five years to give board members an idea of future needs. I have reviewed the recommendations and made few, if any, changes.

We present this document to the committee for review and action. It is a working document meant for discussion. The items may be moved forward on the schedule or pushed out as the committee determines. If a particular item is objectionable, it may be removed.

The process for the CIP is as follows: committees of jurisdiction will review their CIP and, upon approval, will forward it to the Finance Committee for final review and approval. Once Finance has approved the document in its entirety, it will be forwarded to the full County Board for approval. The timeline is such that the full CIP should go to the board for approval at its June meeting.

2015 Capital Project 5-Year Outlook Summary

As of April 30, 2014

DRAFT

Key for Funding Source:

D = Debt Service G = Grants and Aids O = Operating Revenues M = Municipal Funds P = Property Tax S = Sales Tax

2015 EXECUTIVE BONDING PROPOSAL AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)

DIVISION/ DEPARTMENT	FUNDING SOURCE	DEPT PRIORITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
LAND INFORMATION	G	High	Acquisition of Digital Orthophotography	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000
	G	Mod	Remonumentation of Public Land Survey System	-	75,000	75,000	75,000	-	225,000
Land Information				<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>300,000</u>

2015 Capital Project 5-Year Outlook Summary
As of April 30, 2014

DRAFT

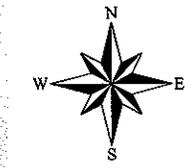
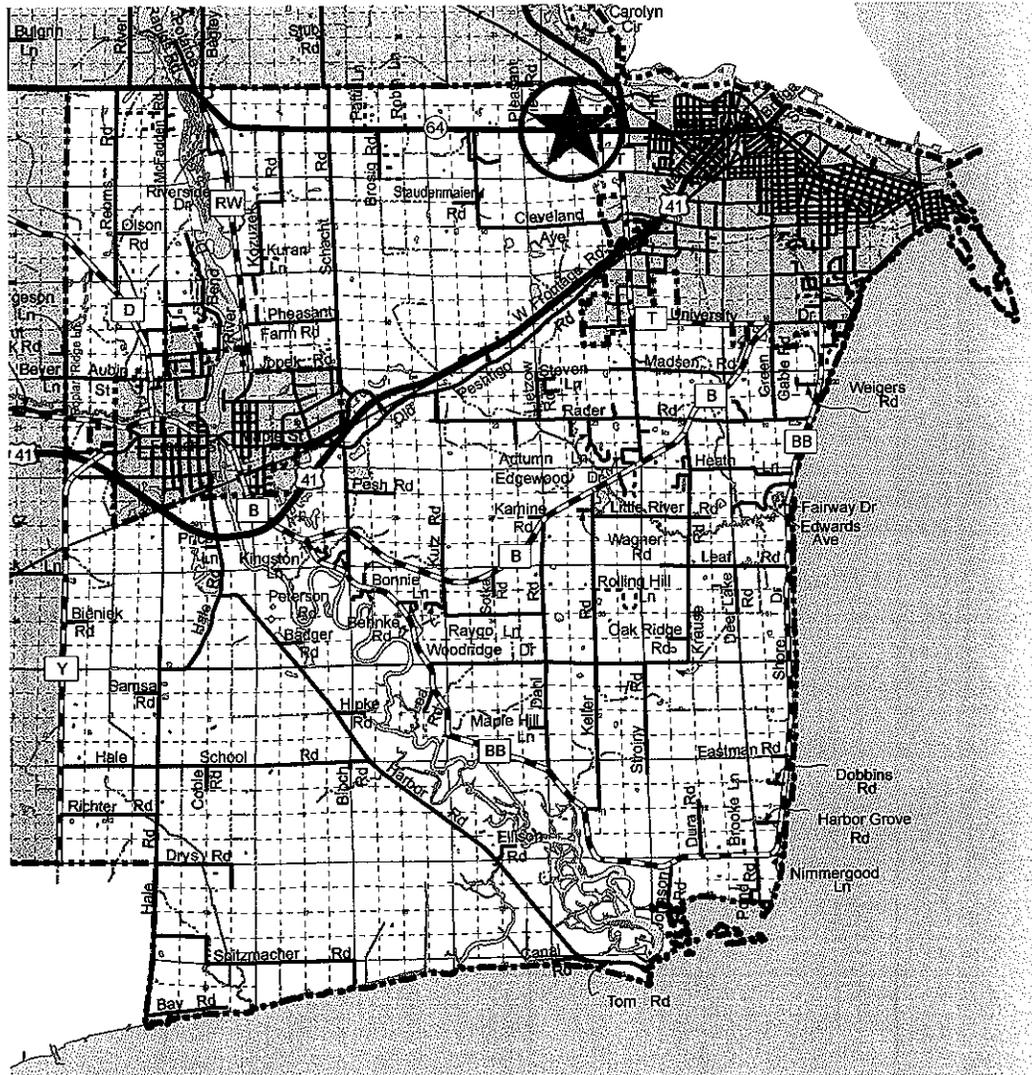
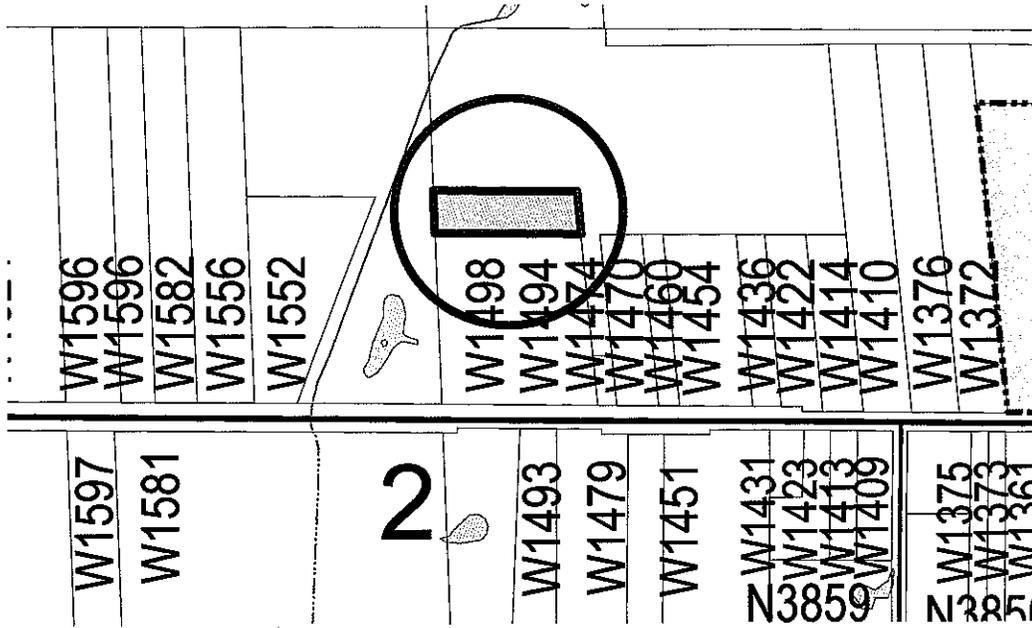
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2015 EXECUTIVE BONDING PROPOSAL AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)

DIVISION/ DEPARTMENT	FUNDING SOURCE	DEPT PRIORITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
MAR-OCO LANDFILL	O	High	Phase III Increments A Liner Construction	850,000	-	-	-	-	850,000
	O	High	Phase II Increment B Closure	-	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
			Mar-Oco Landfill	850,000	0	0	0	600,000	1,450,000

Proposed Zoning Change Town of Peshtigo Part of 024-00680.003 A-2 Agricultural/Rural Residential to A-1 (Agricultural)



March 18, 2014 Town of Peshtigo Board Meeting

Chairperson **Herman Pottratz X**

Supervisor 1 **Dan Staudenmaier X**

Supervisor 3 **Denise Wiedemeier X**

Supervisor 2 **Mark Monnette X**

Supervisor 4 **vacant**

Public Hearing: Public Hearing was called to order at 6:45 pm. After hearing from those in attendance and answering a couple questions; a motion to close (Mark Monnette/Denise Wiedemeier) the hearing at 6:50 p.m. was made. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Town Board meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Approval: Motion (Mark Monnette/Denise Wiedemeier) to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Minute Approval: Motion (Denise Wiedemeier/Dan Staudenmaier) to approve the minutes as published.

Treasurers Report: Motion (Mark Monnette/Denise Wiedemeier) to approve the treasure's report as presented. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Payment of Vouchers: Motion (Denise Wiedemeier/Mark Monnette) to pay vouchers as presented: Electronic Pay #14051 thru 14072 for \$18,167.61 and Local pay #18353 thru 18384 with # 18355 and #18356 void for \$219,773.27 for a total payout of \$237,940.88. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Announcements: Spring elections are April 1, 2014 and the Annual Town meeting is April 15, 2014.

Public Input: Speed sign is down on Little River Road.

Recycling: Denise Wiedemeier gave a report on the problems she is encountering with the state on reports to continue receiving our E-cycle program grant monies.

Appoint Chairperson of Plan Commission: Motion (Mark Monnette/Denise Wiedemeier) to appoint Tim Oestreich as Chairperson of the Plan Commission. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Approve Zoning Change for Calvary Temple Church: Motion (Dan Staudenmaier/Denise Wiedemeier) to approve the zoning change to a section of Parcel Number 024-00680.003 from A-2 Agricultural/Rural Residential District to A-1 Agricultural District with a conditional use permit for a church. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Town Financial Audit: Tabled to the April 15, 2014 town board meeting.

Reappoint to Plan Commission: Motion (Mark Monnette/Denise Wiedemeier) to reappoint for a three year term ending on March 31, 2017: Joyce Buchman, Tom Russell, and Jim Devcich to the Town of Peshtigo Plan Commission. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Reappoint to Fire Commission: Motion (Dan Staudenmaier/Mark Monnette) to reappoint Don Wahl to the Fire Commission for a three year term ending April 30, 2017.

Report on County Road BB (Shore Drive) project: Herman Pottratz gave a report on the progress for the road project and where it is with the county now.

Speed Limit for Roosevelt Road: Request is to lower the speed to 35 MPH. Item will be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Department head and committee reports were given.

Motion (Herman Pottratz/Mark Monnette) to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried with 4 yes votes.

Clarence E Coble, Clerk



County of Door
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DEPT

County Government Center
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Phone: (920) 746-2214
Fax: (920) 746-2369
swcd@co.door.wi.us

Memorandum

To: Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association Members
From: Wm Schuster, County Conservationist *BILL*
Date: May 2, 2014
Re: May 30, 2014 Area Association Spring Conference & Reorganization Meeting

Attached is the agenda and registration information for the May 30th Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Spring Conference & Reorganization Meeting in Door County. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

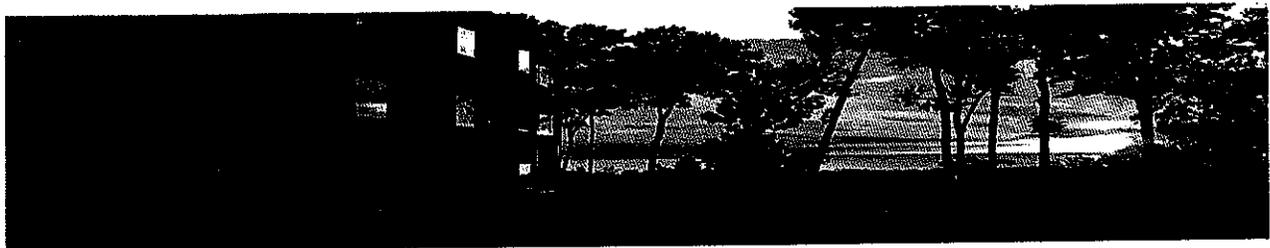
Good LCC and LCD representation from each Member County is particularly important at this meeting because the agenda includes two items that occur only every two years; Reorganization and WLWCA Training conducted by Executive Director Jim VandenBrook.

The meeting will be held at The Landmark Resort near the Village of Egg Harbor. The meeting will be held in the State Room in the Carrington Pub & Grill Building at The Landmark Resort. A direction map is also attached.

The registration fee for the day, which includes lunch, is \$15.00. You need not pay the registration fee in advance, however we do need advance registration of how many will be attending by May 23, 2014. Please contact Beth Hanson at bhanson@co.door.wi.us or 920-746-2214 to make your advance registration.

As noted above this meeting includes the reorganization of the Area Association which takes place every two years. As per our By-Laws each Area Association Member County shall have one LCC appointed member and one Conservation Department appointed member of the Area Association Board of Directors. **Please come to the meeting prepared to designate who was appointed by the LCC and who was appointed by the Conservation Department from your County to serve on the Board of Directors.**

The Door County Land Conservation Committee and Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department look forward to hosting your visit to our County.





LAKE Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association

Hugh Mulliken, President
Door County LCC
PO Box 275
Ephraim, WI 54211
Phone: (920) 421-0820
Email: district19@co.door.wi.us

William Schuster, Vice-President
Door County SWCD
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Phone: (920) 746-2214
Email: wschuster@co.door.wi.us

Buzz Kamke, Sec/Treas
Oconto County LCC
475 S Milwaukee Ave
Oconto Falls, WI 54154
Office: (920) 846-8139
Email: buzz.kamke@co.oconto.wi.us

Ken Dolata, Area Coordinator
Oconto County LCD
PO Box 15
Oconto, WI 54153
Office: (920) 834-7152
Email: ken.dolata@co.oconto.wi.us

Lake Michigan Area
Land and Water Conservation Association
Spring Conference & Reorganization Meeting

The Landmark Resort
The State Room – Carrington Pub & Grill
4929 Landmark Drive, Egg Harbor, WI

May 30, 2014
9:00 a.m. Registration - 9:30 a.m. Call to Order

1. Call Meeting to Order Bill Schuster, Vice-President
2. Roll Call Buzz Kamke, Secretary/Treasurer
3. Door County Welcome Ken Fisher, Door LCC Chair
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Reorganization
 - a. Explanation of Process & Meeting Voting Authority/Process
 - b. Designation of Area Association Board of Director Members by Each County
 - c. BOD Election of President and Vice President
 - d. Appointment of Area Secretary/Treasurer
 - e. Appointment of Area Coordinator
6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 11, 2013 Board of Directors Meetings
7. Treasurer's Report..... Buzz Kamke, Secretary/Treasurer
8. WI Land & Water Conservation Association/Board Report..... Chuck Wagner, Schuster & VanderBrook
9. New (and Returning) LCC Supervisor (and Staff) Training..... Jim VanderBrook, WLWCA
10. Lunch
11. State Land & Water Conservation Board Vacancy Nomination Bill Schuster, Door County SWCD
12. Groundwater Testing in Kewaunee County Davina Bonness, Kewaunee LWCD
13. Yellow Floating Heart Invasive Species..... Greg Cleereman, Marinette LWCD
14. White Nose Syndrome Update Bill Schuster, Door County SWCD
15. DATCP Update Report Lisa Schultz, DATCP
16. County Roundtable Reports—"What's Happening in Your County?"
Verbal Report By All Counties Present
17. July 11 Summer Meeting/Tour—Kewaunee County
18. Other Correspondence/Reports
19. Adjourn

NOTE: The meeting will break for lunch at 12:00 noon and complete the remaining agenda items thereafter.



**County of Door
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DEPT**

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**Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association
Spring Conference & Reorganization Meeting**

Tour Host: Door County Land Conservation Committee and Soil & Water Conservation Department

When: May 30, 2014
9:00 a.m. registration
9:30 a.m. Call to Order

Where: Carrington Pub & Grill
The Landmark Resort
4929 Landmark Drive
Egg Harbor, WI 54209

Cost: \$15.00 - This includes coffee, doughnuts, lunch and meeting cost.

Registration Form

County: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Registration Due on May 23, 2014

Please mail/email registration info to: Door County SWCD
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
bhanson@co.door.wi.us
920-746-2214



Dear Wisconsin Conservation Partner:

You've probably heard about the new Farm Bill quite a bit, but I wanted to follow up with you to share some of the changes to NRCS' conservation programs.

This Farm Bill marks the first time in history that there are more dollars in Title II Conservation than in Title I Commodities with \$28 billion over five years in conservation dollars. Although much of the Farm Bill focus in the media is upon improving Rural America, job creation and the economy, conservation is at the centerpiece; and as a partnership in Wisconsin we are in a great position to assist landowners who want to improve their land.

The attached factsheet highlights a few of the major changes in the Farm Bill. Conservation programs will now fall under three major categories—Financial Assistance, Easements, and Partnerships.

- Under Financial Assistance, programs will include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Agricultural Management Assistance (not applicable in Wisconsin). What was formerly the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program is incorporated into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Under Easements, the Wetland Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, and Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program will now become the **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**. There will be two easement tracks in this program:
 - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) will take the place of the Wetland Reserve Program.
 - Agricultural Lands Easements (ALE). ALE will include Grassland Reserve Program and Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. The Healthy Forests Reserve Program will continue to be a separate easement program and will be available for targeted areas within the state as funds are available.
- Several past partnership initiatives will be rolled into the **Regional Conservation Partnership Program**. These partnership initiatives include the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Conservation Cooperative Partnership Initiative, Great Lakes Basin Program, and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative. The Secretary can designate up to eight additional critical conservation areas for special initiatives.

Other individual programs will include Technical Service Providers, Emergency Watershed Management Protection Program, Conservation Innovation Grants, Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program, Ag Conservation Experienced Services Program (ACES – retired conservationists), and Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (administered by FSA for mostly western states).

I am excited this new Farm Bill places such an emphasis on technical assistance and resource conservation priorities. This will allow us to continue our focus on conservation planning and soil health.

As with past Farm Bills, the goal of NRCS, here in Wisconsin and across the United States, is to get more people involved in conservation, and help those who already work with us to become even better stewards of natural resources. The new Farm Bill gives many opportunities to improve our services and deliver them more efficiently. Because conservation programs were streamlined, we will be able to reduce administrative burdens and make our programs easier to understand and put into action.

We ask you to help us spread the word on the new Farm Bill. We've developed a few resources that will help, including a partner news release, a comparison of the 2008 and 2014 bills and sample social media posts. Please check out our new Farm Bill website located at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/>. Wisconsin's website has been set up to mirror the national site and we will be adding "Wisconsin specific" items to it as they are developed. A new feature on the website we are excited about is the "Getting Started with NRCS" guide that walks a new customer through 5 Steps for Assistance. Additional information and guidance will be distributed as it becomes available.

Let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to working with you get more conservation on the ground in Wisconsin!

Sincerely,

/s/

Jimmy Bramblett
State Conservationist

Enclosures:

Your Guide to the New Farm Bill Programs Fact Sheet
2014 Farm Bill Partner Toolkit



2014 Farm Bill: Toolkit for Partners

With the passage of a new Farm Bill, we're hoping you – our partner – can help us get the word out on the changes to conservation programs. This toolkit provides a few resources to help us get the word out. Please feel free to modify as needed to fit your needs. As new materials are received we will let you know, but please check the website periodically for updates: www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill. Contact Renae Anderson, State Public Affairs Specialist at the Wisconsin NRCS State Office 608-662-4422 x227, renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov if you have any questions.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

2014 Farm Bill streamlines, consolidates conservation programs

[CITY], [DATE] – The 2014 Farm Bill is streamlining key conservation programs while investing about \$18.7 billion in conservation programs offered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service over the next five years. The bill provides about \$3.4 billion for fiscal 2014 for NRCS-administered programs.

The [ORGANIZATION] works in partnership with NRCS to carry out conservation programs in Wisconsin.

“The new Farm Bill is great for Wisconsin farmers and forest landowners as it continues, consolidates and expands the conservation opportunities that are available,” [ORGANIZATION] [TITLE] [NAME] said.

A comparison of programs included in the 2008 and 2014 bills is available [here](#). Current contracts enrolled in Farm Bill programs are not affected.

Key program changes include:

- **Financial assistance programs:** The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, will absorb the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program and make similar practices available. The Conservation Stewardship Program and Agricultural Management Assistance will be continued.
- **Easement programs:** The agency's key easement programs will be merged into a new program called the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, or ACEP. ACEP includes the former Wetlands Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program and Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program. Funding for wetland and grassland protection expired Sept. 30, 2013, and the 2014 Farm Bill reinstates funding for these critical efforts under ACEP.
- **Partnership programs:** The agency's regional conservation efforts have a home in a new program – the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, or RCPP. Critical conservation areas for this new program will be designated by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. NRCS will also select project areas at the state and national level.



To learn about technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or local USDA service center. For more on the 2014 Farm Bill, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA and WEBSITE POSTS

Tweets: Below is a list of sample posts for Twitter users. Also you can help amplify our messages when you retweet our tweets!

Common hashtags include: #conservation #MyFarmBill #NRCS. Our account is @USDA_NRCS

What does the 2014 Farm Bill mean to you?

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/programs/farmbill/> #MyFarmBill

Agriculture just got easier. Find out how.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/programs/farmbill/> #MyFarmBill

How will the new Farm Bill affect you? Well, first of all...

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/programs/farmbill/> #MyFarmBill

3 of the conservation easement programs offered by @USDA_NRCS are consolidated under the new Farm Bill.. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/programs/farmbill/> #MyFarmBill

What does the new Farm Bill mean for you? Find out.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/programs/farmbill/> #MyFarmBill

Face Book and Webpage Posts: Below are sample posts for Face Book users or for your website. Feel free to modify for your needs.

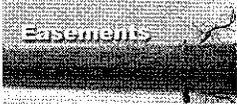
	<p>The new Farm Bill is great for Wisconsin's farmers and forest landowners as it continues, consolidates and expands the conservation opportunities that are available. Check out Wisconsin NRCS' Farm Bill webpage at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/</p>
	<p>Do you farm or forest land and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers and forest landowners. Learn more about the 5 Steps to Assistance (Planning, Application, Eligibility, Ranking and Implementation) here: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/home/?cid=stelprdb1193811</p>
	<p>Don't be caught off guard. Farm Bill programs have changed! A comparison of programs included in the 2008 and 2014 bills is available here: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1244667</p>



United States Department of Agriculture

2014

Farm Bill

	<p>Wisconsin NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers make and maintain conservation improvements on their land through two programs: Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program. Check our more on these programs at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1237774</p>
	<p>Wisconsin NRCS offers easement programs to landowners who want to maintain or enhance their land in a way beneficial to agriculture and/or the environment. Learn more about the Wisconsin NRCS easement programs here: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1117179</p>
	<p>The 2014 Farm Bill recognizes Veterans as a historically underserved audience. Veterans may be eligible for an increased payment rate and receive advance payment of up to 50 percent to purchase materials and services needed to implement conservation practices included in their EQIP contract. Contact your local Wisconsin NRCS District Conservationist for more information at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/contact/local/</p>
	<p>Wisconsin NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land, such as grassland and pasture land. Eligible partners include Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs. To learn more about Agricultural Land Easements, visit: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1248149</p>
	<p>5 Fast Facts about the new Farm Bill. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=stelprdb1241402</p>
	<p>Farmers that do a good job with conservation may qualify for the Conservation Stewardship Program where they can earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment. More on CSP.</p>

GRAPHIC COMPARING 2008 and 2014 BILLS (next page)



United States Department of Agriculture

2014

Farm Bill



Your guide to the new

Farm Bill

Conservation Programs

Below is a quick summary of changes made to conservation programs in the new Farm Bill, enacted on February 7, 2014. These programs are administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The new Farm Bill streamlines conservation programs that enable farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to get assistance.

To get started with NRCS, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or visit your local USDA service center.

Previous Farm Bill	vs.	New and Streamlined Farm Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Quality Incentives Program Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Conservation Stewardship Program Watershed Protection Agreement Incentives 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Conservation Stewardship Program Agricultural Conservation Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands Reserve Program Grassland Reserve Program Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program Healthy Forests Reserve Program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Healthy Forests Reserve Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Agricultural Water Enhancement Program Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Great Lakes Basin Program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Conservation Partnership Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Service Providers Conservation Innovation Grants Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program – administered by Farm Service Agency Emergency Watershed Protection Program Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Service Providers Conservation Innovation Grants Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program Emergency Watershed Protection Program Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program*

*EWP and Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program are not Farm Bill programs but are offered by NRCS. Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program was funded through the 2014 Farm Bill.

An equal opportunity provider and employer.



THURSDAY NOTE

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

APRIL
2014
VOL. 17 ISSUE 1

What Up with Land & Water

Beginning with our 2014 annual conference, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) launched its new logo that reflects our new organization as a merged association of land conservation supervisors and staff. As advocates of locally led conservation we work to bring land, water, and people together for a brighter future. In the next months, look for our new website featuring this new design and improved functionality for you.

Nearly 360 individuals attended the 2014 conference at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. The program included learning opportunities on state and federal conservation programs and funding, presentations on county conservation successes, and technical sessions on the implementation of state and federal conservation practice standards. The WLWCA Raffle generated over \$3,000 to help sponsor training opportunities for members. The annual silent auction netted over \$3,700 to support youth education programming. Thanks to all who participated and to our volunteers who worked so hard to organize these fun and worthwhile events.

Our keynote speaker, Gordon Stevenson, fired up the crowd with observations about where we've been, where we are, and where we need to go in land and water conservation. With over 30 years of experience on non-point source control programs with Wisconsin DNR, Gordon saw programs make progress and then fall back. But, looking forward he said,

"...what will matter in the 21st century are the values that we share: that saving the topsoil and protecting the water are how we will live on this piece of land called Wisconsin...without spoiling it."

The 2014 Land and Water Conservation Board elections were held during the annual business meeting. Dale Hood, Grant County; Joe Piechowski, Waushara County; and Chuck Wagner, Kewaunee County were elected to the Board.

A resolution regarding high-capacity wells and groundwater was approved by the Association and can be found on our website under Governance. This resolution advocates the application of the latest science related to the impacts of high-capacity wells on ground and surface water resources before enacting new legislation regarding permits for high-capacity wells.

Congratulations to the following conservation award winners:

- Friend of Conservation: Kathryn McKenzie, Douglas County
- Outstanding Supervisor: Monte G. Osterman, Racine County
- Outstanding Conservation Technician: Shane Wucherpennig, Wood County
- Outstanding County Conservationist: Chase Cummings, Pepin County
- Conservation Farmer of the Year: Dudley "Joe" and Marian Smith/Smith Farms, Eau Claire County

Mark your calendars for September 12th when Smith Farms will be hosting Conservation Observance Day.

Thanks to our sponsors: Conserve School; River Alliance of Wisconsin; Wisconsin Farmers Union; The Nature Conservancy; Trout Unlimited; and, agency partners: DATCP, WDNR, USDA – NRCS; and, the UW Extension. We greatly appreciate their collaborative efforts and spirit throughout the year.

A big thank you and fond farewell to Brooke Weber who departed WLWCA at the end of February. In Brooke's time with the association she helped advance our efforts with DATCP to re-energize statewide conservation training efforts. She led our website redesign, developed outreach materials, and established a social media presence for WLWCA. We'll miss you Brooke! WLWCA is currently in the process of rehiring Brooke's Training and Outreach Programs Specialist position. The applications closed on April 11th and interviews are scheduled for early May.

- Jim VandenBrook , Executive Director



Breanna Weiland, Waupaca County, wins first place for her speech, "The World's Greatest Sponge" in the Elementary Division of the Speaking Contest.

Youth Poster & Speaking Contest

The 57th annual State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contests were held in Appleton on March 10th. Volunteers from county land conservation departments, natural resource state agencies, and Fox Speaks Toastmasters club helped judge the contests. The first place winning speaker from each division presented their award-winning speech at the WLWCA Annual Conference luncheon on Monday to a crowd of over 300 conservation professionals from across the state. Mariah Haberman, host of Discover Wisconsin, and Jim VandenBrook presented the winners with trophies and recognized all of the students for their outstanding work and their interest in conservation.

The winning speeches ranged in topics from the value of wetlands, to the need for sound management of frac sand mining operations, to discussing how dependent we are on abundant supplies of clean water. This year's poster contest theme was "Dig Deeper - Mysteries in the Soil". The first place posters will represent Wisconsin at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest held in New Orleans.

"These pint-sized conservation advocates were so fearless! It sure was refreshing (and comforting!) to hear the passionate opinions of our next generation," said Haberman.

2014 Wisconsin Envirothon

This year's Envirothon was held in Tomahawk at Treehaven on April 17th. Wisconsin Envirothon is Wisconsin's ultimate middle and high school environmental science challenge where teams of five high school or middle school students participate in the hands-on field challenges designed by natural resources professionals and educators. The exams are based on Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, and Wildlife.

Schools from across the state braved the 10 inches of snow that hit Treehaven. Despite having to move the testing stations inside, the students were in good spirits participating and testing their classroom knowledge. The teams also participated in creating a team presentation based on the current issue - Sustainable Local Agriculture/Locally Grown Foods. The team presentations provide them an opportunity to articulate today's critical environmental concerns and to develop the skills to communicate the conservation ethic in whatever scholastic, career or civic choices lie ahead.

"Envirothon is a wonderful experience for anybody who is thinking about a career in natural resources or just wants to know more about the world they live in. I had so much fun participating and learning. I recommend this experience for anybody," said Emma Wallander, Luxemburg-Casco high school student.

The Wisconsin Envirothon is a program of the WLWCA's Youth and Education Committee and is made possible by the many generous volunteers made up of natural resource professionals and educators. The Wisconsin Envirothon also relies on the volunteer and financial support of many of our supporters such as Conserve School, numerous County Land and Water



Luxemburg-Casco High School students won 1st place in the Team Presentations and won Overall in the High School Division.

Conservation Departments, Trees for Tomorrow, WI Association for Environmental Education, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Green Schools Network among others.

First Place Winning Teams:

Aquatic Ecology:
Middleton High &
Island City Academy Middle

Forestry:
Middleton High &
Island City Academy Middle

Soils and Land Use:
Luxemburg-Casco High &
Island City Academy Middle

Wildlife:
Luxemburg-Casco High &
Island City Academy Middle

Team Presentations:
Luxemburg-Casco High &
Island City Academy Middle

Overall:
Luxemburg-Casco High &
Island City Academy Middle

For a complete list of second and third place winners, please visit our website at: www.wlwca.org.

Legislative Update

The Spring session of the Wisconsin legislature concluded a few weeks ago and most of the bills passed are expected to receive the Governor's signature by May 1st. SB 547, the phosphorus bill, which included some changes WLWCA proposed and then supported as amended, is scheduled to be signed by the Governor on April 23rd. The expected law would grant a statewide variance to phosphorus discharge limits for municipal waste treatment facilities, paper and cheese-making facilities, and others with permits if they fund non-point source reductions, primarily through county land conservation offices. Assuming EPA allows this variance option, it could mean roughly \$7.5 to \$20 million for non-point work in counties. WLWCA opposed both frac-sand mining bills and neither advanced in the legislature. WLWCA supported TAX 18, the rule change to use-value assessment which will now allow most wetlands enrolled in conservation programs to be eligible for the lower tax assessment.

Standards Oversight Council

Using the SOC process, DNR published the permeable pavement technical standard to provide guidance on best practices for designing and installing permeable pavement systems that achieve desired water quality benefits. This new standard will provide an additional tool for designers to meet state and local water quality and infiltration performance standards. An initial overview of the standard was held on April 17th through Water Star Wisconsin webinar series. The presentation will be available on their website at www.waterstarwisconsin.org. Additional webinars and in-field training opportunities are being scheduled for later this summer and fall.

NRCS has updated more than 15 practice standards and several updated job sheets and drawings this spring. Standards 632, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, and 350, Sediment Basin, were open for comment in March and are in the process of final drafting. More information on these updates can be found at <http://socwisconsin.org/category/news/>.

The Standards Oversight Council recently released the 2013 SOC Annual Report to share a summary of our recent accomplishments and ongoing activities. The report includes 2013 highlights, summarizes team progress on the Nutrient Management standard and Permeable Pavement standard, and outlines progress on improving participation and communication. The report is located on our website at <http://socwisconsin.org/our-work/soc-publications/>. If you would like a hard copy please contact gini@wlwca.org.

We invite you to learn more about the upcoming practice standards that are planned for revision by reviewing the 2014 - 2015 SOC Work Plan at www.socwisconsin.org.

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Staff

Jim VandenBrook - Executive Director
 Kim Warkentin - Office Manager/Youth Programs
 Chris Schlutt - Training & Outreach Programs
 Gini Knight - Standards Oversight Council
 Vacant - Training & Outreach Programs

Conservation Training

Working with Lisa Schultz (DATCP), WLWCA helped organize and put on a conservation training session for 16 new LCD employees. DATCP, DNR, and NRCS staff provided a day-long session covering the state and federal programs and procedures that are implemented by county staff. It has been many years since this type of training was offered and participants found it very useful based on the positive feedback from course evaluations. This training will likely be offered twice a year.

The State Interagency Training Committee will be meeting in May to refine the priority list of trainings that conservation professionals have said they need. In the latter half of 2014 look for "Train the Trainer" type sessions for Nutrient Management Farmer Education courses. After the recent county board elections, new land conservation committee members have been appointed and area training for LCCs is offered by WLWCA. Chris Schlutt and Jim VandenBrook are working with area representatives to set up training sessions.



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THURSDAY NOTE

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues



Calendar of Events

Executive Committee meeting	May 1
Spring County Conservationist meeting, WI Rapids	May 8 - 9
WI State Technical Committee meeting, Madison	May 15
Standards Oversight Council meeting, Madison	May 21
Northwest Land & Water Conservation Area meeting	May 29
Lake Michigan Land & Water Conservation Area meeting	May 30
Land & Water Conservation Board meeting, Madison	June 3
WLWCA Technical Committee meeting, Stevens Point	June 6
WLWCA BOD meeting, Stevens Point	June 12
Northwest Land & Water Conservation Area meeting	June 13
Outreach and Education Committee meeting	June TBD
WLWCA Youth Conservation Camp in Vilas Co.	June 23-27
Registration DEADLINE is June 9, 2014.	
Register online www.vilasconservation.org .	
More information contact: Carolyn Scholl at (715) 479-3682.	
Sand Lake Youth Conservation Camp in Marinette Co.	June 25-27
Registration DEADLINE is May 30, 2014.	
Register online www.marinettecounty.com .	
More information contact: Anne Bartels at (715) 732-7784.	

For more information and events visit www.wlwca.org/eventscalendar.html