

ACRONYMS AND INITIALS

(updated March 2014)

AB	Assembly Bill
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
AMO	Adaptive Management Option
APHIS	USDA Animal and Plant Health System Inspection Service
ATCP	WI Administrative Code: Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CEED	Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee
CNR	College of Natural Resources (UW-Stevens Point)
CR(E)P	Conservation Reserve (Enhancement) Program
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program (formerly Conservation Security Program)
CWES	Central Wisconsin Environmental Station
DATCP	Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
DBA	Dairy Business Association
DC	District Conservationist
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DPI	Department of Public Instruction
DSPS	Department of Safety and Professional Services (former Dept. of Commerce)
ELUC	Environment and Land Use Committee
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Programs
FOOTF	Field Office of the Future
FOTG	NRCS' Field Office Technical Guide
FRPP	Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
GIS/GPS	Geographic Information System / Geographic Positioning System
GLC	Great Lakes Commission
GLNAC	Great Lakes Nonpoint Abatement Coalition
L(W)CC	Land (and Water) Conservation Committee
L(W)CD	Land (and Water) Conservation Department
LWEC	Land and Water Education Committee
LWRM(P)	Land and Water Resource Management (Plan)
MFL	Managed Forest Law
MMSD	Madison Metropolitan Sewage District
MOA/MOU	Memorandum of Agreement / Memorandum of Understanding
MRBI	Mississippi River Basin Initiative
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NALMS	North American Lake Management Society
NM	Nutrient Management
NOD	Notice of Discharge
NPS	Nonpoint Source Pollution
NPM	Nutrient & Pest Management
NR	WI Administrative Code: Natural Resources
NRC	Natural Resource Committee
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PACE	Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (program)
PDR	Purchase of Development Rights
PIC	WLWCA's Professional Improvement Committee

RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development
RPC	Regional Planning Commission
RUSLE2	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation, Version 2
SB	Senate Bill
SECC	State Employees Combined Campaign
SEG	<u>Segregated</u> funding or appropriation
SOC	Standards Oversight Council
SWCS	Soil and Water Conservation Society
SWQMA	Surface Water Quality Management Area
SWRM	Soil and Water Resource Management Program
"T"	Tolerable Soil Loss
TIS	Terrestrial Invasive Species
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TRM	Targeted Runoff Management
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Society
UWEX	University of Wisconsin-Extension
UWSP	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
VHS	
WAEE	Wisconsin Association of Environmental Educators
WALCE	Wisconsin Assoc. of Land Conservation Employees (merged with WLWCA 3/12)
WBI	Wisconsin Buffer Initiative
WCA	Wisconsin Counties Association
WCEE	Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
WEEB	Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
WEEF	Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation
WCHOF	Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame
WDA(C)P	Wildlife Damage Abatement (& Claims) Program
WFLGP	Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WICCI	Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts
WLCV	Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
WLI	Working Lands Initiative
WLWCA	Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association
(W)LWCB	(Wisconsin) Land and Water Conservation Board
WPDES	Wastewater (Wisconsin) Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Permit Program)
WQMA	Water Quality Management Area
WRP	Wetlands Reserve Program
WRS	Wisconsin Retirement System
WSTC	Wisconsin State Technical Committee
WTCAC	Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
WWOA	Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
Y&E	Youth and Education

BYLAWS
of the
WISCONSIN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I – NAME AND TYPE

1. Name. The name of the Association shall be the "Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.", hereinafter referred to as "WLWCA" or "the Association".
2. Type. The Association is a non-partisan not-for-profit corporation. The Association may cooperate with any other organization that shares a common purpose or goal.

ARTICLE II – MISSION AND PURPOSES

1. Mission. To protect, conserve and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources by serving and representing county Land Conservation Committees ("LCCs") and conservation department staff operating under the authorities granted in Chapter 92 Wisconsin Statutes.
2. Purposes. The Association is more specifically organized to:
 - A. Further counties' common interests and statutory powers and duties relating to soil and water conservation, nonpoint source water pollution abatement and prevention, and other land use, natural resource management, cost-sharing, education and regulatory programs.
 - B. Facilitate information exchange as well as technical and administrative program review to solve problems and improve services common to county governments in carrying out their duties.
 - C. Provide Membership services such as newsletters, workshops, professional improvement training, conferences, environmental education, Member training, promotion of county conservation programs, and the coordination of various Member meetings.
 - D. Provide information to state and federal agencies, the legislature, congress and executive branches, and advocate for sound program policies and legislation affecting county land and water conservation programs.
 - E. Promote and assist in the development and dissemination of uniform conservation practice technical standards based on the latest research, technology and field experiences.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Voting Membership in the WLWCA shall be open to county LCC Members and conservation department staff operating under the authorities granted in Chapter 92 Wisconsin Statutes. The WLWCA Board of Directors shall annually establish Association Member dues amounts based on the amount needed to support the activities of the Association and maintain a reserve. The Association shall notify each county of annual dues assessments by May 1 of each year and the amount shall be effective as of the start of the next fiscal year of the Association. The annual dues structure shall allow for the following:

1. County Membership. Counties that pay the annual full "Member County" dues shall be "Member Counties". All Land Conservation Committee Members and conservation department staff of each "Member County" shall be "Members" of the Association and all Association services, privileges and voting rights shall be made available to them.
2. Individual Member. Individual LCC Members or conservation department staff of any county that is not a Member County may become an Individual Member by paying the annual "Individual Member" fee. All Association services shall be available to Individual Members at Member costs, but they shall have no voting rights at Annual Meetings. Individual Members may participate in and vote on all other WLWCA activities.
3. Associate Members. Any non-county individual or organization that has a common interest in the mission or purposes of the Association may become an Associate Member provided they pay the annual dues for an Associate Member. WLWCA services shall be available to Associate Members at discounted costs, as determined by the Board of Directors, but Associate Members shall have no voting rights.
4. Association Staff. Association staff shall be deemed non-voting Members of the Association and no dues would apply.
5. Advisors. The Association may request program updates or advice from agencies or organizations that affect county conservation programs. These advisors shall have no Association privileges or voting rights.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, ELECTIONS AND POWERS AND DUTIES

1. Area Associations ("Areas") and Area Representatives. The State of Wisconsin shall be divided into eight (8) Areas, as shown in Exhibit A, for purposes of electing representatives to the WLWCA Board of Directors. Every county shall be included in one area at all times. For each county within an Area, the LCC shall appoint one (1) person and the conservation department shall appoint one (1)

person to serve as the Area Association Board of Directors and vote in elections of WLWCA Board of Directors. Changes to Area boundaries must be approved by a majority vote of the Area Association Board of Directors of all affected Areas. Upon determining compliance with these Bylaws, the WLWCA BOD shall incorporate Area boundary changes into Exhibit A, which shall become effective at the next Area election cycle, as described below.

By June 20th of even numbered years, each Area Association Board of Directors shall elect their Representatives to the WLWCA Board of Directors and provide the WLWCA office their contact information.

- A. Elections of Area Representatives shall be open to nominations from all Individual or County Members within the Area. Any eligible Member may nominate themselves or another Member who accepts the nomination.
 - B. The LCC representatives on the Area Association BOD shall elect one (1) LCC Area Representative and one (1) alternate to the WLWCA Board of Directors.
 - C. The county conservation department staff representatives on the Area Association BOD shall elect one (1) Area Representative and one (1) alternate to the WLWCA BOD.
 - D. All elections shall be by written ballot, unless there is only one nominee for each position.
 - E. All Area Representatives on the WLWCA Board of Directors shall serve a two (2) year term, or until a successor is elected.
 - F. Alternates may serve in the absence of the Area Representative. If an Alternate is unable to serve, the Area Representative or the Area Association BOD may appoint another eligible Member to serve on the WLWCA BOD in their absence.
 - G. Consecutive term limits of Area Representatives to the WLWCA Board of Directors may be established by the Area Association Board of Directors.
2. WLWCA Board of Directors (BOD). The Association shall be directed and managed by a Board of Directors (BOD). The BOD shall include eight (8) LCC Members and eight (8) county conservation department staff Members elected by each of the eight (8) Area Association BOD, as described above. The WLWCA BOD shall elect from the BOD a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who shall serve as the "BOD Officers". Election voting shall be by written ballot, unless there is only one nominee for an officer position. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be one (1) LCC Member and one (1) conservation staff Member at all times. The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:
- A. Conduct an Annual Meeting of the Association, an organizational meeting after each spring election on even numbered years or other turnover, and any other meetings at the call of the Chair;
 - B. Determine the policies and procedures of the Association, which shall be published in a manual for reference by the Membership;
 - C. Formulate, publish and annually update a strategic plan for the Association, consistent with the stated mission and purposes;

- D. Keep the Membership informed of the Association's affairs, activities, programs, accomplishments, and current issues;
 - E. Define the fiscal year of the Association, approve the annual budget and Membership dues, compensation package for WLWCA Executive Director, and travel expenses for BOD Members;
 - F. Approve annual audits of the Association's financial records and accounts;
 - G. Oversee contracts for staff employment, professional services, legal counsel, loans, leases or other Association matters in accordance with adopted policies and procedures;
 - H. Elect two (2) BOD Members to the Executive Committee, and approve appointments and guiding principles for other WLWCA committees;
 - I. Approve appointments for Members to represent WLWCA on non-Association committees, and set sideboards and reporting requirements.
 - J. Remove a Member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee or other committee upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and determining that a Member has missed too many meetings to adequately fulfill their assigned duties, failed to pay annual dues, or defamed the Association;
 - K. Coordinate activities among WLWCA committees and WLWCA staff;
 - L. Maintain and enforce these Bylaws;
 - M. Promote the WLWCA and its Membership among counties and the general public;
 - N. Delegate any BOD duties to standing or ad-hoc committees, or the Executive Director;
 - O. Determine indemnification rights and insurance needs for the Association;
 - P. Be responsible for all Association fiscal matters, policies and activities.
3. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall include the four (4) BOD Officers plus two additional BOD Members elected by the BOD. Elections shall be by written ballot, unless there are only two nominees. The Executive Committee shall be made up of equal numbers of LCC and conservation staff Members at all times, other than during periods of temporary vacancy. The BOD Chair shall serve as the Vice-President of the Executive Committee and the BOD Vice-Chair shall serve as the President of the Executive Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer positions shall be occupied by the same individuals on the Executive Committee as the BOD.

The primary purposes of the Executive Committee are to fulfill the obligations and conduct the business of the Board between BOD meetings, and to minimize the need to spend full BOD meeting time on routine matters the Board has authorized the Executive Committee to manage. The Executive Committee shall also oversee the Association's finances and its Executive Director, and report about its activities at each BOD meeting. The Executive Committee has the following powers and duties, subject to adopted policies, procedures and budgets of the BOD:

- A. Hire the Executive Director, negotiate salary and benefits contracts, set annual performance expectations and priorities, annually evaluate the

- Executive Director's performance and implement performance based salary adjustments or any necessary disciplinary action, including termination.
- B. Review fiscal matters of the Association and develop a draft budget and other proposals for consideration by the BOD. Focus on the financial sustainability of the Association, including long-term projections of income and expenses and make recommendations to the BOD and other Committees for changes when appropriate. All major Association expenses and income are to be evaluated, including annual dues, fees for conferences, Committee meetings, training workshops, tours, and educational events, travel policies, staffing, contracts, and other Association activities.
 - C. Oversee an annual fiscal audit of the Association, which shall be conducted by a Certified Public Accountant with the final report submitted to the Board of Directors.
 - D. Review Committee reports and assist with issue resolution as needed;
 - E. Approve Association expenses, BOD travel and other activities within adopted policies and procedures;
 - F. Any other duty as authorized by the BOD.
4. Officers. The Officer positions noted under the BOD and Executive Committee shall each be two (2) year terms or until a successor is elected or appointed. While executing their duties, Officers shall represent the entire state. Officers may delegate their duties to others, supervise the performance of such delegated duties, and revoke any such delegation at any time. The Association, BOD or Executive Committee may assign to any Officer duties other than and in addition to those described in these Bylaws. All Officers are authorized to perform the functions customarily performed by their position, including as described below:
- A. *BOD Chair*. The Chair shall call BOD meetings, prepare meeting agendas with assistance from the Vice-Chair and preside over all BOD meetings. The Chair shall ensure proper notice of BOD meetings in accordance with applicable laws and Association policies. The Chair shall designate a presiding officer for any BOD meeting if neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair will be present. The Chair shall be responsible for seeing that the policies of the Association are carried out in accordance with the applicable procedures and requirements.
 - B. *BOD Vice-Chair*. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in preparing agendas for BOD meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform all duties assigned to the Chair.
 - C. *President*. The President is the Chief Officer of the Association, executing all documents requiring the signature of the Chief Officer of the Association, unless otherwise delegated by the BOD. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee, the Annual Meeting and other meetings of the full Association. The President shall prepare agendas for these meetings with assistance from the Vice-President and ensure proper notice of these meetings in accordance with applicable laws and Association policies. The President shall be responsible for seeing that Association

activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable adopted policies and procedures. The President, in consultation with the Vice-President, may appoint Members to represent WLWCA on any committee, or to serve in other capacities outside of the Association. The Board of Directors shall confirm all appointments made by the President, which may be after-the-fact, if the President determined it was necessary due to the timing required for the appointment.

- D. *Vice-President.* The Vice-President shall assist the President in preparing agendas for Executive Committee, the Annual Meeting and other meetings of the Association. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform all duties assigned to the President.
 - E. *Secretary.* The Secretary shall ensure minutes are properly recorded and posted or distributed in accordance with Association policies and public records laws under Wisconsin Statutes. The Secretary shall ensure that the Association policies and procedures manual is kept current, that all proposed resolutions or position statements are properly routed for review, and actions are recorded. The Secretary shall ensure that records are maintained of WLWCA Membership, Committee appointments and guiding principles, meeting agendas and minutes. The Board of Directors may delegate the duties of the Secretary to the Executive Director or other Members with oversight from the elected Secretary.
 - F. *Treasurer.* The Treasurer shall oversee all fiscal matters of the Association, including but not limited to account ledger(s) and other appropriate documentation of income, expenses, financial contracts and other transactions for the Association, and providing regular reports at meetings, as requested. The Board of Directors may delegate the duties of the Treasurer to the Executive Director or other Members with oversight by the elected Treasurer.
5. Other Committees. The Board of Directors may create other Committees or Subcommittees and charge them with specific functions. It is the stated intent of these bylaws to encourage diversity among Committee Members and empower Committees to represent the Association on specific matters, following guiding principles approved by the BOD. Listed below are examples of anticipated Committees, their mission and, if applicable, their target Membership groups:
- A. *Conference Committee.* Concentrate solely on the annual conference of the Association, working closely with WLWCA staff and many of the other association committees to identify timely workshop topics and training opportunities for LCCs and conservation staff. Duties would include recruiting speakers, moderators and volunteers, coordinating meeting place logistics, display booths, raffles, and any other associated events, market the conference to counties, and evaluate the success of each conference upon its completion.

- B. *Administrators Committee.* Offer opportunities for administrators of county land conservation offices to meet on a regular basis, discuss and evaluate common programmatic and office operational issues with their peers, share administrative experiences and lessons learned, and solve common problems or improve program services.
- C. *Legislative Committee.* Promote a sustainable funding source for county conservation programs. Identify law and policy changes that are needed to improve land and water conservation programs and their delivery, and develop and implement strategies to make it happen. Evaluate any legislative, administrative rule or policy changes that affect county land and water conservation programs and develop and deliver position statements on behalf of WLWCA, within the guiding principles approved by the BOD.
- D. *Outreach & Education Committee.* Offer educational staff and other Members the opportunity to meet, discuss and evaluate the planning, design and implementation of public environmental education programs at the local or state level. Committee Members would share their experiences and lessons learned, help solve common problems and strive to improve the effectiveness of educational programs and services. Also may be charged with getting the message out about the Association, who we are, and what we do; or break into subcommittees to sponsor a specific event or activity such as web page design, conservation contests, tours, field days, and other public events.
- E. *Technical Committee.* Offer technical staff and other Members the opportunity to meet, discuss and evaluate land conservation related technical issues with their peers, share experiences and lessons learned, and solve common problems or improve technical services. This includes but is not limited to conservation planning, inventory, evaluation, and modeling tools, technical certification, conservation practice design and implementation, and sponsoring technical workshops or tours. This Committee may also coordinate county review comments on draft technical standards produced by other agencies and organizations through the Standards Oversight Council process or other means. The Committee may create Subcommittees to focus on specific technical issues or programs. The Committee is authorized to issue positions statements on behalf of the Association on technical issues within guiding principles approved by the BOD.
- F. *Training Committee.* Plan and implement individual training workshops for county conservation staff or LCC Members, coordinating a mentoring program or county-to-county visitations, or working with other agencies or organizations in sponsoring program workshops or other professional improvement activities. Work closely with training activities that other committees sponsor, including the Conference Committee, Technical Committee, and the Outreach and Education Committee to help meet some of their mission.

G. *Non-WLWCA Committees.* WLWCA Members may be appointed to represent the Association on non-WLWCA Committees in accordance with Sections 2.I. and 4.C of this article. The BOD is responsible for establishing guiding principles, length of service and reporting requirements for the representative.

6. WLWCA Staff. The BOD may authorize the hiring of Association staff. The position of WLWCA Executive Director shall be authorized to represent the Association on all matters, be accountable to the President, and be subject to performance evaluations by the Executive Committee, as described in Section 3 of this Article. Any additional WLWCA staff shall be accountable to the Executive Director. Additional requirements and procedures shall be documented in a policies and procedures manual.

ARTICLE V – ASSOCIATION MEETINGS AND VOTING

All WLWCA meetings, minutes and other record keeping activities shall be conducted in accordance with Wisconsin laws relating to open meetings and access to public records. In addition, the following shall apply:

1. Annual Meeting. There shall be one Annual Meeting of the Association each fiscal year, which may be held in conjunction with a conference, subject to BOD approval. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to conduct business, discuss common concerns, vote on issues or resolutions, receive reports or presentations from the BOD and others, and possibly conduct Land and Water Conservation Board elections. The time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be chosen by the BOD. A quorum shall consist of at least one representative being present from a majority of Member Counties. No resolution or other action item may be considered at an Annual Meeting unless it has been approved by an Area Association and forwarded to the Board of Directors; or it was originated and approved by the Board of Directors; or it has been accepted for consideration by two-thirds (2/3) of the floor votes from Members Counties present. Any votes that occur at the Annual Meeting shall allow for two (2) votes per Member County, including one (1) vote representing LCC Members and one (1) vote representing county conservation staff. No proxy voting is allowed. A conservation staff person and an LCC Member must be present to cast the respective vote from each county.

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board (WLWCB) Elections. Section 15.135 (4) Wisconsin Statutes allows for the election of three (3) LCC representatives to serve on the WLWCB, which advises state agencies on many issues and programs that directly affect county conservation programs. WLWCB elections are held during the Annual Meeting on even numbered years. The BOD requests that each Area Association BOD nominate one LCC representative to serve on the WLWCB. If there are fewer than three (3) candidates, nominations may also be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting. All candidates must be LCC representatives. All voting shall be by written ballot unless there are only three candidates. Every county is allowed

one (1) vote, which may be cast by an LCC representative or their designee. All elected representatives shall serve a two (2) year term.

2. Board of Directors Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the Chair. A quorum for a BOD meeting shall be a simple majority of the Board, including alternates or their designee being present. The BOD Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that a quorum is present in order to conduct any official business. Any Member may participate in an open session of a BOD meeting, but voting rights are restricted to BOD Members or their Alternate.
3. Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President. A quorum shall be a simple majority of the Executive Committee. The President shall be responsible for ensuring that a quorum is present in order to conduct any official business. Any Member may participate in an open session of the Executive Committee meeting, but voting rights are restricted to Executive Committee Members.
4. Other WLWCA Committee Meetings. WLWCA Committees shall meet at the call of the Committee Chair, the President or the BOD Chair. A quorum for any committee meeting shall be deemed a simple majority of the appointed Members, their alternate or designee being present. The Committee Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that a quorum is present in order to conduct any official business. Any Member may participate in a Committee meeting, but voting rights are restricted to those Members appointed by the BOD, their Alternate or designee.
5. Area Association Meetings. Each of the designated Area Associations is responsible for determining how often they meet and in what activities they participate. Each Area Association may adopt resolutions to recommend action by the WLWCA Board of Directors or the full Association, in accordance with the Annual Meeting procedures. The Area Association BOD shall ensure elections of Area Representatives to the WLWCA BOD are conducted in accordance with Article IV, Section 1 of these bylaws.
6. Special Meetings. The President, BOD Chair or WLWCA Committee Chair may call a special meeting of the Association, Board of Directors, or any WLWCA Committee respectively to take action on a time sensitive issue. A quorum shall be consistent with the type of meeting called. Any votes that occur at a special meeting shall follow the same rules as stated for the type of meeting being called. Any meeting of the full Association shall allow two (2) votes per county, similar to an Annual Meeting. A special meeting announcement and draft agenda shall be sent to all counties as soon as practical, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the meeting, or as authorized by State Open Meeting Laws. Draft minutes from a special meeting shall be sent to all counties within seven (7) days after the meeting explaining why a Special Meeting was called, meeting attendance, and any action taken.

7. Closed Sessions. A closed session may be conducted for any meeting provided the meeting agenda included a closed session. The presiding officer shall determine who is authorized to attend.
8. Meeting Notice and Agendas. All types of WLWCA meetings shall comply with the following meeting notice and agenda requirements:
 - A. *Meeting Notice.* The Executive Director's office shall provide written notice to all counties and the BOD at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting date for all BOD or Executive Committee meetings, and at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date for each Annual Meeting. For other WLWCA Committees, the Committee Chair shall provide all Committee Members, BOD Members, counties and the WLWCA Executive Director's office a notice of all committee meetings at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting date. Notices shall be considered delivered the day it is emailed or, if sent by U.S. Mail, the postmarked date. The Executive Director shall also publish on the Association's website all BOD, Executive Committee and other WLWCA Committees meeting notices at least three (3) days prior to the meeting date, and Annual Meeting notices at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting date.
 - B. *Agendas.* Agendas shall be included with all WLWCA meeting notices. Agendas shall indicate the date, time, and location of the meeting, contact information for the presiding Officer or Committee Chair, and an agenda listing specific issue(s) to be discussed and proposed action, if any. Items that require formal action may only be added or otherwise altered during a meeting upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by those Members with voting rights in attendance.
9. Minutes. Minutes shall be recorded for all types of WLWCA meetings and approved at the next meeting of that body. Once approved, minutes shall be posted on the WLWCA web site and emailed to all counties within thirty (30) days, unless otherwise noted above for Special Meetings.
10. Rules of Order. Decision-making during meetings of the full Association, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee shall use a voting process in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, unless those rules are inconsistent with any policy or rule adopted by the Association or the Board of Directors. Decision-making within WLWCA Committee meetings shall follow a consensus process if possible. If consensus cannot be reached, votes shall be taken following Roberts Rules of Order.
11. Meeting Formats. Each of the meetings described above, except the Annual Meeting, may occur in person, by conference call, videoconference or other electronic means, as prescribed by the person calling the meeting. The Annual Meeting shall always be held in person.

ARTICLE VI - BYLAW CHANGES

Changes to these bylaws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Member Counties present during an Annual Meeting of the Association, in accordance with the procedures prescribed under Article V, Section 1 of these Bylaws. One copy of any proposed bylaw changes shall be sent to every county a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the call to order of the Annual Meeting. The date(s) of initial adoption and any future revisions of these bylaws shall be shown following the text of the last article.

ARTICLE VII - DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Association by a majority vote of Member Counties at an Annual Meeting, the Association shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations, under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of Dane County exclusively for charitable or educational purposes, or to such organization or organizations said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE VIII – TAX EXEMPT PROVISIONS

1. Limitations on Activities. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and this corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, this corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. Prohibition Against Private Inurement. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to Directors, trustees or officers of the corporation, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.
3. Distribution of Assets Upon Dissolution. Upon the dissolution of this corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed for one or more exempt

purposes within the meaning of Section 510(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to a Wisconsin nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3) organization. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of this state.

4. Private Foundation Requirements and Restrictions. In any taxable year in which this corporation is a private foundation as described in Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, the corporation 1) shall distribute its income for said period at such time and manner as not to subject it to tax under Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code; 2) shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code; 3) shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; 4) shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject the corporation to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Code; and 5) shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945 (d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE IX - EFFECTIVE DATE

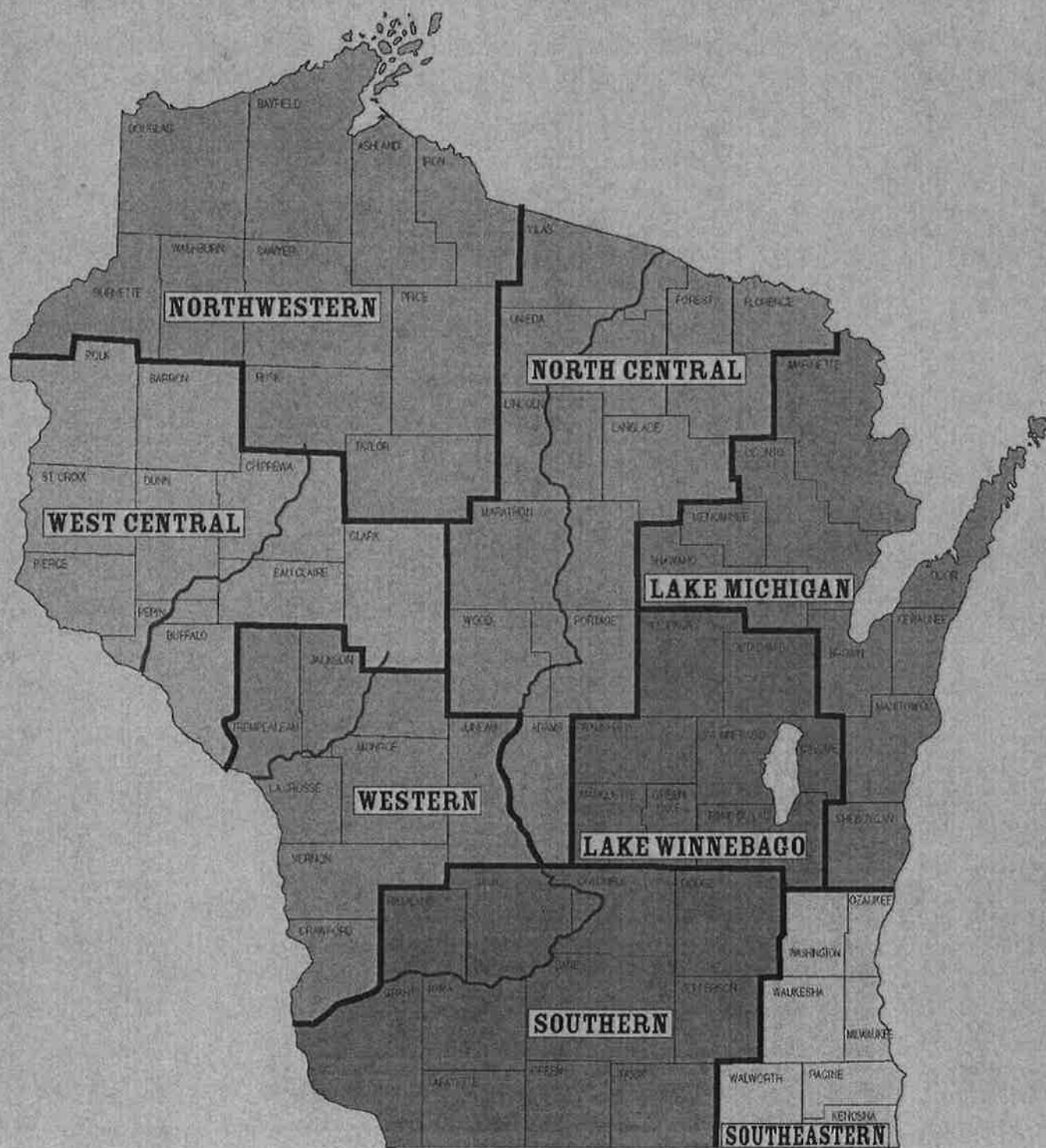
These Bylaws represent the result of merging the WLWCA with the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE). These Bylaws replace all previous versions of Bylaws for the Association. The effective date of these Bylaws and any future amendment shall be posted below.

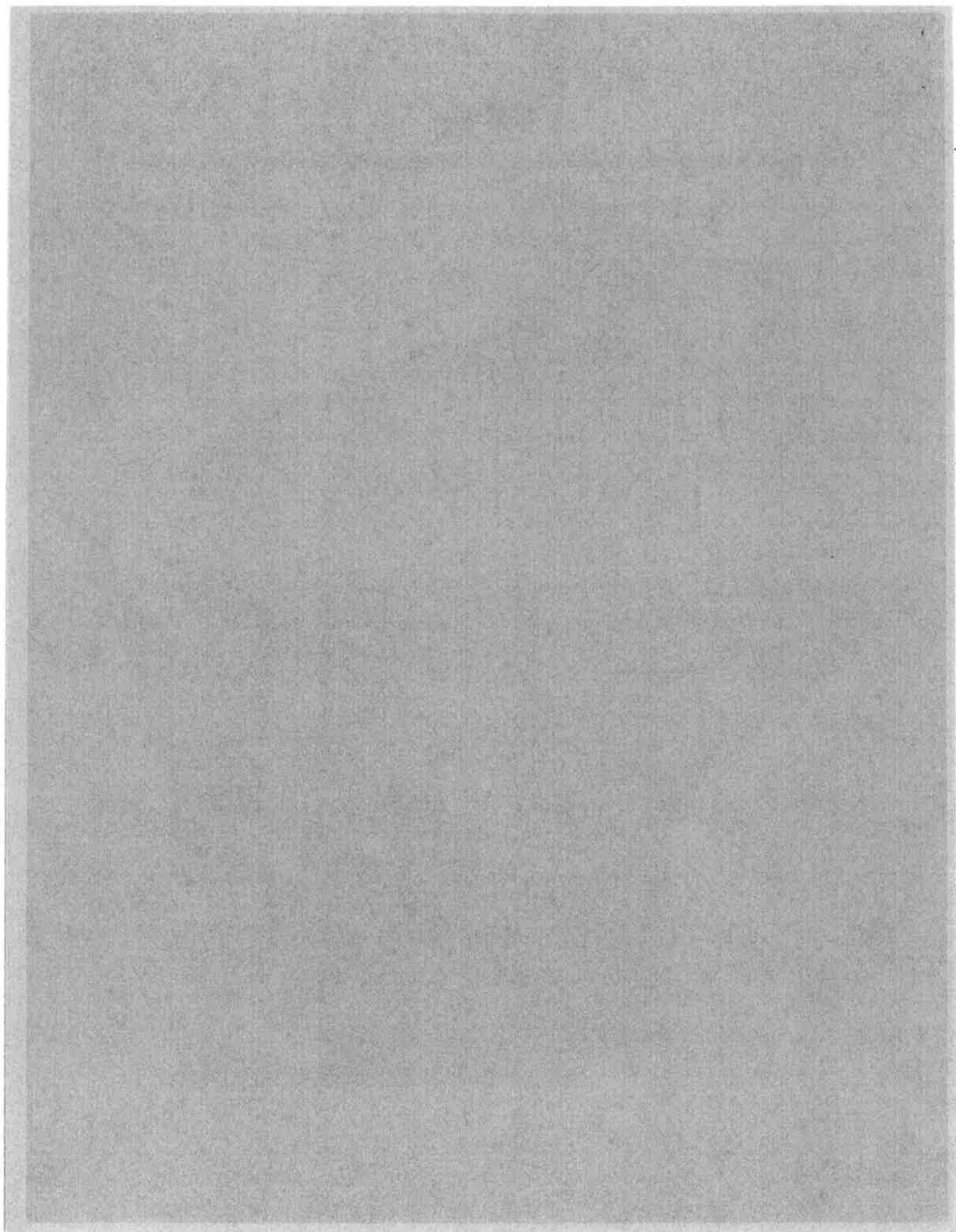
Approved by WLWCA on 12/9/11

Approved by WALCE on 3/1/12

Exhibit A

Area Boundaries for the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association







**Land Conservation Committee
Supervisors Handbook**

Spring 2014

WLWCA Area Associations of Land Conservation Committees and Departments



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Thanks to the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
for their sponsorship of this handbook.

2012-2014 Board of Directors

(Please note that a new board will be elected summer 2014.)

Area 1: Lake Michigan

Chuck Wagner, Chair
Kewaunee County LWCC

Bill Schuster, Treasurer
Door County SWCD

Area 2: Lake Winnebago

Greg Baneck, Vice Chair
Outagamie County LCD

Joe Piechowski
Waushara County LWECD

Area 3: Southeast

Peter Sorce
Washington County LCC

Perry Lindquist, Secretary
Waukesha County LRD

Area 4: Southern

Kurt Calkins
Columbia County LWCD

Dale Hood
Grant County LCC

Area 5: Western

LCC Rep, Vacant

Ben Wojahn
Vernon County LWCD

Area 6: West Central

Fritz Garbisch
Clark County LCC

Kelly Jacobs
Eau Claire County LCD

Area 7: Northwestern

LCC Rep, Vacant

Tom Fratt
Ashland County LCD

Area 8: North Central

Tom Rudolph
Oneida County C&UEC

Carolyn Scholl
Vilas County LWCD

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Look for our new website coming this summer!

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Welcome to the field of soil and water conservation.

Under Wisconsin's system of county government, some of you find yourselves appointed to the Land Conservation Committee or its statutory equivalent. Whatever your committee is called, we assure you that the functions of the Land Conservation Committee are very important to the citizens of your county.

As an LCC member, you are a key player in the natural resource protection arena. You provide vital input into the task of identifying resource needs and developing programs to address those needs. With your help, Wisconsin will continue to be recognized as a leader in protecting its environment.

It is also important for a Land Conservation Committee member to be knowledgeable about the work and workings of the Land Conservation Department. This knowledge can be put to good use both in your committee and in your contacts with the public.

With that in mind, this handbook has been developed to assist you in understanding your leadership role as an LCC supervisor. We trust that you will find it useful in the challenges that lie ahead.

Best wishes for a successful and satisfying term,

*The Wisconsin Land and Water
Conservation Association*

Land and Water Conservation in Wisconsin

What we do matters

Wisconsin is its land, its waters, and its people. The health of all three depends on one another. How Wisconsin citizens conserve and maintain the state's limited land base and soil productivity, as well as its lakes, streams, and groundwater will determine the future of our economy and quality of life. It is the mission of county Land Conservation Committees (LCC) and Departments (LCD) to help landowners and users meet their objectives while protecting our common economic and environmental infrastructure - land and water resources.

Who are we?

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, is a membership organization that supports the efforts of 450 LCC supervisors and 350 conservation staff in 72 county LCD offices through training, conservation standards development, youth education, grants, partnership building, and advocacy. In 2012, WLWCA merged its LCC membership with the LCD staff organization, the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE). The merged organization retained the name Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association. It is a unique association nationally.

Land Conservation – Wisconsin's proud heritage

Government and farmers came together back in the 1930's to address the field-wrecking soil erosion of the Dust-Bowl era through direct local assistance. The nation's first watershed project devoted to soil conservation was established in Coon Valley, Wisconsin. Farmers healed their lands with field practices like contour strip cropping that exist to this day. These initial efforts were led by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, which continues today as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It wasn't long before state and county efforts to promote land conservation also commenced.

The Advent and Evolution of County Land Conservation

In 1933, Wisconsin established the Soil Conservation Committee, a state entity that exists currently as the Land and Water Conservation Board to help direct state efforts to combat soil erosion. By 1953, Soil Conservation Districts were formed in every county in the state, and a statewide association was formed (now

WLWCA), primarily to support USDA soil conservation efforts. But, the 1972 federal Clean Water Act focused more attention to water quality concerns. Conservation Districts across the nation were asked to address polluted runoff from farms and urbanizing areas (“nonpoint pollution”). In Wisconsin this led to the creation of new state programs that relied on counties to implement. But the Conservation District model, led by federal (USDA) employees, was not designed to directly empower counties and hold them responsible for implementing state land and *water* conservation programs.

In 1982, Wisconsin became the first in the nation to abolish Conservation Districts and create the county Land Conservation Committee (LCC) structure in every county. Primarily comprised of county board members, LCCs were authorized to implement important state supported conservation programs through county Land Conservation Departments. These programs included the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection’s (DATCP) Farmland Preservation, and Soil Erosion Control programs, and Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Non- Point Source (NPS) pollution control program. County staffing and technical capability increased dramatically.

Partnerships and Success

In the 1980’s and ‘90s, together with the state agencies and their programs listed above, and in partnership with USDA – NRCS and their soil conservation programs, county Land Conservation Department’s helped farmers reduce soil erosion and nonpoint pollution statewide. In DNR’s NPS program, many barnyards were cleaned up and manure storage systems built to reduce runoff pollution from manure. Stream habitat was restored and fisheries recovered. But, some questioned the cost-effectiveness of the programs and the targeted watershed funding strategy.

State Program Reorganization

From 1997-2001 a contentious process of redrafting state nonpoint program rules ensued, resulting in a renewed focus on program implementation at the county level through “County Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plans (see page 13). Statewide nonpoint pollution performance standards were adopted to apply to all parts of the state – urban and rural. Farmers were required to comply

only if adequate cost-sharing was provided. Funding for both rural conservation practices and county land conservation staff was no longer targeted by watersheds and declined ever since. State funding for staff is now less than one-half of the statutory goal while land and water resources are under greater and greater pressure.

Resource Degradation and Increasing Threats

Since the height of soil conservation efforts in the mid-1990s, we have literally lost ground. Soil erosion rates on croplands are now 20% higher than they were in 1997. Through fertilization, average phosphorus levels in agricultural soils have built up to almost twice the optimal rate for crop production, making it more difficult to keep algae-producing phosphorus out of lakes and streams. Now, more water bodies are added to Wisconsin's list of impaired waters than are removed from it.

Land conservation offices deal with more than agricultural runoff. Polluted storm-water runoff from urban and suburban areas affects lakes and streams. Siting of homes in rural areas, without proper groundwater/runoff investigation, results in flooded basements. The demand for "frac-sand" has led to local conflicts over mine reclamation plans. Wisconsin is also under increasing threat from terrestrial and aquatic invasive species that threaten agriculture, forestry, lakes, shorelines, tourism, and businesses. On top of this, Wisconsin is experiencing extremes of temperature and precipitation that are affecting our natural and managed resources.

Wisconsin is reacting to global demands that put pressure on the land for more food, feed, fiber, and fuel (ethanol/frac sand). That means more marginal land in crop production. About half (350,000 acres) of highly erodible acres under the Conservation Reserve Program are now back in production. Record plantings of corn and soybean acres mean less crop residue is left on fields to slow runoff. And less soil-conserving hay is planted as diets for high-producing dairy cows have changed. Our global commerce brings non-native species to our land and waters. Even our changing climate is tied to global influences.

Moving Forward by Sticking Together

While the list of resource challenges seems daunting, we do have proven

solutions for most of our problems if we have the will, and local staff in place to implement them. The state commitment to local staffing has declined for the last 15 years. It is time to halt that erosion too. Statewide funding for local staff is proposed to be permanently cut by \$1.3 million annually to about \$8 million per year. Restoring this relatively small amount means a lot, especially in many rural counties where local budgets are more than strained. It is also a great investment for Wisconsin citizens. Here are some of the direct benefits local land conservation staff bring:

- For every dollar of state spending for local staff, five dollars are leveraged locally for landowners to implement conservation practices, nearing \$50 million statewide in 2011.
- Farmers that work with LCDs have very low rates of severe runoff or other environmental problems.
- Farmers who engage LCDs, even when they do have runoff problems, get problems fixed quickly, and almost always avoid fines and the need for a permit.
- As Wisconsin pursues its goal to increase milk production, farmers will need the financial and technical assistance of LCD's to handle increased manure production in an environmentally appropriate way.
- Through partnerships with DATCP, DNR, NRCS, UW-Extension specialists, UW researchers, US EPA and importantly non-governmental organizations, county staff acquire grants and expertise to tackle our most pressing resource concerns.
- LCD's are uniquely positioned to help implement Wisconsin's Phosphorus rules, which will require unprecedented cooperation between municipalities and the agricultural community.
- No other single agency can coordinate the wide range of technical expertise needed to deal on-site with the diverse and constantly changing natural resource needs of Wisconsin's citizens.

Together we can manage our land and water resources to make Wisconsin a better place, economically and environmentally.

Conservation at the County Level: Land Conservation Committees and Land Conservation Departments

1. What is a Land Conservation Committee (LCC)?

Land Conservation Committees (LCCs) were created through state law. Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes (Chapter 92) required all counties create an LCC to carry out their responsibilities for conserving soil, water and related natural resources. LCCs oversee the administration and implementation of conservation programs that meet local priorities and the needs of land users. These programs might be local programs, or state programs that are implemented at the local level. Locally implemented conservation programs across the state address a variety of resource issues, including but not limited to:

- Controlling soil erosion
- Managing manure and nutrient applications
- Planning for future land use
- Protecting important land areas
- Managing and protecting groundwater
- Controlling construction site erosion and urban stormwater runoff
- Managing lakes, rivers and shoreline areas
- Protecting and restoring wetlands
- Managing forest resources
- Controlling invasive species

Unless skillfully implemented, even the best conservation programs can do little to assist local residents and protect valuable resources. Effective coordination and implementation of conservation programs at the local level is the primary role and the major challenge for LCCs.

Who serves on the Land Conservation Committee?

Chapter 92 specifies LCC makeup as:

- At least 2 persons serving on the county's Agriculture and Extension Committee;
- One representative of the county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee;

- Any number of county board members; and
- Up to 2 members that are not on the county board.

How long do members serve?

LCC members serve two-year terms or until a successor is appointed. Surveys indicate that approximately one-third of members are replaced every two years following county board elections and committee reorganization.

Who advises the Land Conservation Committee?

The county board appoints advisors to the LCC. Each county committee that deals with natural resources including county zoning, land use, forestry, parks and solid waste committees, must be represented. Additionally the LCC may invite a representative from the agencies and organizations with which it has a Memorandum of Understanding, such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The public also acts in an advisory capacity to LCCs by participating in LCC-sponsored public meetings.

2. What is a Land Conservation Department (LCD)?

The Land Conservation Department (LCD) is made up of employees of the county. According to a key provision in Wis. Stats. Chapter 92.09, LCD staff may exercise the powers granted to the LCC and serve as the vehicle by which LCC policies are carried out. Therefore, the LCD serves as its committee's right arm. Most LCCs have a direct role in hiring LCD staff to implement their programs. Because of differing county administrative structures, some LCCs are not directly involved with hiring staff.

3. What is the relationship between the LCCs and LCDs?

We have just described the LCC's statutory responsibility to conserve local soil, water and related natural resources. The LCD provides the assistance to the committee that helps them meet this responsibility. In this way, the county LCC and LCD function together with a common purpose of conserving the county's natural resources. The LCC is often responsible for a particular project or task but they generally rely on LCD staff for advice and project implementation. For example, participation in a given state program may require the LCC to submit a grant application and detailed work plan to carry out the project. The LCD will

generally prepare the needed materials, while the LCC approves the grant application.

Each county in the state is required to have a Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan approved by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). LWRM plans may be approved for a maximum of 10 years. The Land Water Conservation Board (LWCB) must provide a recommendation to DATCP regarding the approval of every LWRM plan. The LWCB uses guidance and a checklist to determine if the plans have appropriate performance benchmarks, include priority farm strategies, and meet other criteria for a 10 year plan approval or the long-term extension of a previously approved plan. To learn more visit

[http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land and Water Conservation/Land and Water Resource Management Plans/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land_and_Water_Conservation/Land_and_Water_Resource_Management_Plans/index.aspx).

It is often the case that LCCs influence, contribute to, and support the LCD's work. Other examples of shared effort include:

- Establishing priorities for addressing resource challenges;
- Deciding what types of conservation assistance will best serve the needs of county land users; and
- Coordinating cooperation from agencies and other departments of county government to accomplish goals and tasks.

In summary, the LCC provides leadership, support, advice and constructive criticism to its LCD. The LCD carries out LCC policy on a daily basis. Although the LCD is indispensable to the success of any county's conservation effort, the LCC is ultimately responsible for the conservation of the county's natural resources.

Here are examples of the division of responsibilities found in most counties:

LCC	LCD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sets policy and program goals• Provides leadership• Approves the LCD budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administers the LCC policy and programs• Advises and informs the LCC• Prepares the LCD budget

- Approves the LCD work plans
- Supports the LCD
- Advises the county board
- Prepares the work plan
- Provides technical assistance and distributes cost-sharing to landowners
- Administers grants and regulations

Roles and Responsibilities of LCCs

Land Conservation Committees and Chapter 92

Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which creates LCCs, is the state's soil and water conservation law. The statute "... declares it to be the policy of the state to halt and reverse the depletion of the state's soil resources and pollution of its waters." To carry out this policy, the legislature enacted Chapter 92 to:

- Establish goals and standards for conservation of soil and water resources;
- Provide for cost-sharing, technical assistance, educational programs and other programs to conserve soil and water resources;
- Encourage coordinated soil and water conservation planning and program implementation; and
- Enable the regulation of harmful land use and land management practices by county ordinance where necessary.

The statute explains why the state and county are involved in natural resource conservation. It lays out the basic organizational framework for implementing the state's conservation policy and identifies the conservation work to be done and who is responsible for completing this work. LCCs are a key component of this law. Under Chapter 92, LCCs must meet defined statutory responsibilities. The law also authorizes committees to carry out state and federal programs, and grants them powers to address local resource concerns through the adoption of strong local conservation programs. As a member of your county's LCC, you have a responsibility to understand Chapter 92 and the powers that you are granted to meet your statutory responsibilities and address local conservation concerns.

View the entire statute at

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/92.pdf>.

What are the statutory responsibilities of LCCs?

Chapter 92 requires certain activities of LCCs. Under Chapter 92, LCCs shall:

- Prepare and implement a land and water resource management (LWRM) plan;

- Prepare a soil and water conservation plan for land under a farmland preservation agreement (if the county participates) and ensure compliance with this plan;
- Actively solicit public participation in planning and evaluating their soil and water conservation programs;
- Adopt soil and water conservation standards for the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), submit them to the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) for approval (if the county is a participant in this program), and monitor compliance with these standards; and
- Follow the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) procedures and requirements in order to receive funding through DATCP's soil and water resource management program (SWRM).

To meet these statutory responsibilities, LCCs work closely with LCDs, as well as with state and federal agencies.

What other powers may be exercised by LCCs?

By statute, LCCs also have the following *permissive* powers. These powers *may*, rather than *shall*, be exercised by land conservation committees. Generally, LCCs are empowered to:

- Develop and adopt conservation standards for their county;
- Distribute and allocate federal, state and county funds for conservation activities;
- Encourage information and education programs;
- Carry out preventative projects for water conservation;
- Provide technical, planning or other assistance;
- Obtain property;
- Make equipment and supplies available to land users;
- Construct conservation structures;
- Adopt and administer conservation projects or programs;
- Make and execute contracts;
- Require payment for services;
- Enter lands of private owners;
- Employ staff; and
- Administer and enforce select ordinances.

LCCs rely on their partnership with the LCD to carry out these permissive powers to implement their local land and water conservation programs.

Do LCCs have the power to regulate?

No, not by themselves. However, the state does grant LCCs the power to propose adoption of county ordinances to promote soil and water conservation or nonpoint source water pollution control. Once passed and adopted by the county board, such ordinances allow county regulation of land use, land management, and pollution management practices. (Note: some proposed ordinances must pass a public referendum before being passed by county board – see Chapter 92, Wis. Stats. for details.)

Assistance and Funding for LCCs and LCDs: Partner Agencies and Organizations

Local government and the conservation movement have long enjoyed a close association in Wisconsin. With the 1982 revision of Chapter 92, land conservation moved into the mainstream of county government. As a result of this change, there is the opportunity for more effective coordination of county natural resource responsibilities and greater financial support of local conservation efforts.

Currently, many LCCs enjoy a close and productive relationship with other natural resource related departments of county government, such as planning, zoning, forestry, and parks and recreation. Many LCCs work closely with local municipalities, such as cities, towns, and villages, on conservation efforts.

As a function of county government, LCCs are responsible for developing the county's soil and water conservation programs. In this capacity they are also the primary means by which the state implements its conservation programs at the local level. The job of the LCC is to incorporate the applicable state programs into its county program. Several of the county's conservation needs can be met through state and federal programs and LCCs and LCDs work closely with state and federal governmental as well as non-governmental agencies and organizations to carry out conservation programs at the county level. Through these partnerships, LCCs and LCDs can obtain funding and other assistance from these agencies and organizations. In cases where local needs are not met, the LCC takes the lead to develop their own local programs to complement the state and federal programs. In this way, LCCs can have substantial influence on state and federal legislation. This influence may be expressed by a single LCC at the county level, by a regional grouping of LCCs at the area level, or as part of a concerted effort through a representative organization at the state or federal level.

1. State and National Organizations Representing the Interests of LCCs and LCDs

LCCs and LCDs play a critical role in setting conservation policy and shaping state programs. There are a number of organizations which work in the interest of counties as well as LCCs and LCDs at the state and national level, including the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, the Wisconsin Counties

Association (WCA), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) is a nonprofit membership organization representing the state's county Land Conservation Committees and Departments. In 2012, the organization merged both the state organization of Land Conservation Employees with the parent organization of Land Conservation Committee Supervisors. This merger reflects the close working relationship of Land Conservation supervisors and staff and their common needs for representation.

WLWCA is divided into eight area associations consisting of member Land Conservation Committees and Departments (see page 2). WLWCA is governed by a board of directors made up of one LCC and one LCD representative from each area association. WLWCA is funded mainly through county membership dues and grants.

On behalf of the LCCs, WLWCA staff work with elected officials and government agencies to secure financial and program support for local conservation activities. Staff also continuously informs LCCs and LCDs on state and national projects and issues. WLWCA sponsors conservation education and recognition programs, supports public and private actions to advance resource conservation, hosts an annual conference, and provides training for LCC members.

WLWCA has seven committees that work on various priorities of the organization:

- **The Executive Committee** has the authority to fulfill the obligations and conduct the business of the Board between Board meetings, and to minimize the need to spend full Board meeting time on routine matters the Board has authorized the Executive Committee to manage. The Executive Committee shall also oversee the Association's finances and its Executive Director, and report about its activities at each BOD meeting. The Executive Committee is comprised of 6 officers: three LCC supervisors, and three LCD staff.
- **The Legislative/Administrative Committee** shall review and take action as deemed necessary by the committee on any proposed legislation,

administrative rule, or other policy and procedure that may significantly impact the administration of conservation programs. The committee is also charged with initiating action that may be needed to improve the administration of conservation programs and coordinating statewide information exchange among all county land conservation department administrators.

- **The Public Outreach Committee** is charged with developing and implementing an outreach plan to promote county land and water conservation programs and services. Our goal is to increase public awareness and support for county land and water conservation efforts.
- **The Professional Improvement Committee's (PIC's)** main function is to develop and implement an annual conference. This includes selecting the site, developing agendas, scheduling presenters, and all other activities associated with carrying out a successful conference. The PIC also coordinates a Member Scholarship program. Training scholarships are designed to help cover the expenses of WLWCA members who would otherwise be unable to afford a particular professional improvement or leadership training program.
- **The Technical Committee** is charged with addressing issues relating to land conservation technical activities including, but not limited to: conservation planning, inventory and evaluation tools, technical certification, and conservation practice and design implementation. The committee may also serve to coordinate county review comments on draft technical standards produced by other agencies and organizations.
- **The Youth Education Committee** is focused on developing and maintaining programs that educate and inspire Wisconsin's youth. Wisconsin's unique eco-diversity makes it the perfect classroom and our many programs work to ensure that future generations continue to care for our beautiful state. The committee works to promote, coordinate and increase conservation awareness through our youth programs.

- **The Great Lakes Committee** was formerly a stand-alone organization known as the Great Lakes Non-point Action Coalition. Its goals were to promote the control of non-point source pollution to the Great Lakes and it was comprised of county LCC and LCD staff, as well as representatives from other organizations with related concerns. In 2014, the Coalition was merged into WLWCA to strengthen efforts to improve water quality in the Great Lakes.

All committees welcome new LCC and LCD members.

WLWCA's Annual Conference and business meeting is held in early to mid March and provides information on current conservation issues. The annual business meeting is held on the last day of the conference. It is during this meeting that resolutions, and sometimes bylaws amendments, are voted upon to help guide the organization in the upcoming year. Elections to appoint three representatives to the state's Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) occur at the conference during even-numbered years. As members of the LWCB, these representatives provide recommendations that advise policy for some state conservation programs.

The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) is a collaboration of conservation agencies that oversees a team approach in developing and maintaining technical standards for soil and water conservation practices in Wisconsin. Many federal, state, and local agencies rely on the same technical or practice standards to implement numerous conservation programs. However, this diverse group must deal with different mandates, goals, policies, deadlines, and political pressures. SOC is charged with working through these inherent challenges and overseeing the process for developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources. Through an interagency work planning process, SOC helps focus limited public resources where they are needed most.

The SOC governing body consists of representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), University of Wisconsin Extension, and WI Land & Water. The SOC collaboration and their work is currently funded by NRCS, WDNR, and DATCP,

with contributions of staff time, expertise, and non-monetary resources from UW Extension, WI Land & Water, Department of Transportation, county land conservation department staff, and private sector technicians. Several county conservation departments also provide an annual donation. The SOC is a successful example on collaborating agencies and integrating resources to effectively address critical issues that protect our state's resources.

The Council and the WI Land & Water Executive Director oversee the SOC Program Manager, who provides programmatic leadership, coordinates the standard work teams, and manages outreach and communication efforts. In January 2014, SOC released the 2014-2015 Work Plan, which contains the more specific practice standard projects scheduled for the upcoming two years.

For more information, visit <http://www.socwisconsin.org>.

The Statewide Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) consists of representatives from WLWCA; the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; Department of Natural Resources; UW-Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the private sector. Their mission is to build a statewide team of well-trained conservation professionals that ensure best management practice installation for soil and water conservation. WLWCA staff coordinate SITCOM meetings and help implement their directives.

Youth Education Program. The Youth Education Committee currently focuses on the following programs:

- Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest is open to kindergarten through twelfth grade students. Students compete at county and area competitions with the winning posters moving on to compete at the State Competition in March at the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association's Annual conference. The first place posters from the state competition represent Wisconsin at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting.

The Conservation Speech contest is open to Elementary Division- Grades 5-6, Junior Division- Grades 7-8, Senior Division-Grades 9-12. This contest aims to promote the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality. Emphasis is placed on the

subject as it relates to the locality or to Wisconsin. Students compete at county and area competitions with the winners moving on to the State Competition in March at the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association's Annual conference. The first place winners in each category share their speeches at the conference luncheon.

- Wisconsin's Annual 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. The teams also participate in creating a team presentation based on a current issue. The team presentations provide students 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 and provides them with tools to provide leadership for a more sustainable and environmentally aware community. Winners advance to the North American Envirothon /Regional Envirothon to compete in scholarships and prizes.
- Youth Conservation Camps provide positive educational outdoor experiences, foster an appreciation for nature, and introduce a variety of careers in natural resources and conservation. Professionals from various agencies present programs on topics like wildlife, habitat, water quality, fisheries, forestry, orienteering, and canoeing. These professionals, as well as adult volunteers, serve as overnight staff and group leaders for the duration of camp. Campers can make new friends, participate in hands-on activities, practice social & leadership skills, enjoy the outdoors and just have fun!

The two youth camps that our committee helps to coordinate are:
WLWCA Youth Conservation Camp June 23-27 for grades 9-12 in Eagle River, WI. For more information contact Carolyn Scholl at (715) 479-3682.
Sand Lake June 25-27 for grades 6-8 in Crivitz, WI. For more information contact Anne Bartels at (715) 732-7784.

For more information about our Youth programs visit wlwca.org or eeinwisconsin.org.

Wisconsin Counties Association

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) is a voluntary membership organization that was created by Wisconsin State Statute (59.52(22)) for the furtherance of better county government and the protection of county interests. WCA's direction is determined by its members and its Board of Directors consistent with the parameters set forth by the WCA Constitution.

WCA works diligently to provide services to its members that allow them to serve their constituents in the most effective manner possible. These services include a legislative team that serves as the voice of county officials at the state and federal level, public relations services that include the publication of a monthly magazine and a Web site, ongoing training and educational opportunities through seminars, legislative exchanges and an annual conference. For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.wicounties.org>.

National Association of Conservation Districts

Organized in 1946, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) serves as the national voice for the conservation district movement. NACD pools the experience of over 3,000 districts (or LCCs, as they are called in Wisconsin) in developing national conservation policies on a continuing basis. Operational funds are provided by dues from member LCCs in Wisconsin, WLWCA, individuals, and member conservation districts nationwide. For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.nacdnet.org>.

2. State Agencies and Boards

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board

Chapter 92 also describes the roles and responsibilities of the LWCB. The LWCB consists of state agency administrators, WLWCA elected representatives, and governor-appointed representatives. The LWCB is an advisory body to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Natural Resources, having no rule-making authority.

The LWCB reviews and approves county soil and water conservation standards, reviews and recommends approval of county LWRM plans, recommends priorities for allocation of program funds and recommends funding program changes that will improve efficiency and effectiveness. To learn more about the LWCB visit: [http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land and Water Conservation/Land and Water Conservation Board/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land%20and%20Water%20Conservation/Land%20and%20Water%20Conservation%20Board/index.aspx)

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Chapter 92 names DATCP as the lead agency for setting and implementing the state's soil and water conservation policies. DATCP achieves its statutory obligations largely through county LCCs and LCDs.

DATCP is responsible for assisting LCCs in developing, coordinating, and approving their DATCP-related conservation plans and programs. DATCP administers state cost-sharing funds for a variety of LCC operations, including staff and support for LCD employees and cost-sharing to install conservation practices. Through its field service staff, DATCP provides engineering assistance and certification for local, state and federal programs. This service is provided to LCD technicians and other persons who design, review and approve agricultural engineering practices. Visit <http://datcp.wi.gov/> for more information.

Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is charged with managing and protecting nearly all state-owned lands and protecting all waters of the state. DNR administers programs to regulate, guide, and assist individual land users in managing land, water, fish, and wildlife. Technical assistance and/or cost-sharing is provided to county LCCs and LCDs through several DNR programs. Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/> for more information.

University of Wisconsin-Extension

The University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) supports lifelong learning by bringing the knowledge and resources of the University of Wisconsin to people wherever they live and work. UWEX teams up county Extension faculty with regional and statewide specialists throughout the UW System to provide educational programming across the state. UWEX supports county land conservation activities through numerous programs, centers, and educators addressing agriculture, natural resources, and community development. Visit <http://www.uwex.edu/about/cooperative.html> for more information.

3. Federal Agencies

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, has long cooperated with and assisted LCCs. LCCs work closely with NRCS to conserve land

and water resources. NRCS is linked to many LCCs through mutual and local operating agreements. The agreements spell out the cooperative relationship between USDA and the LCC.

NRCS' primary role is to provide technical assistance for conservation planning, practice design and installation on private lands. NRCS is the lead federal agency for conservation on private lands. Since 1985 the federal Farm Bills have included conservation provisions such as the ones described below, to reduce soil erosion on highly erodible farmland, protect water quality and wetlands, and to encourage wildlife habitat. Visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/> for more information.

Resource Conservation and Development

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a program through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to stimulate economic development through wise use, conservation and development of natural resources. Wisconsin's seven RC&D areas cover the entire state, and are governed locally through RC&D Councils consisting mainly of LCC members.



For more information on each of the Wisconsin RC&Ds, check <http://wisrcd.weebly.com/>.

Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is also part of the USDA and administers a variety of agricultural assistance programs including production controls, price supports and conservation. Each LCC has an FSA representative as one of its members. The FSA conservation programs are administered with NRCS technical assistance. For additional information one FSA, please visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on "State Offices."