

***Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Committee Agenda  
"Working Together to Protect & Enhance the Environment"***

***Jefferson County Courthouse ~ 311 S Center Ave, C2063 ~ Jefferson, WI 53549***

***Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 8:30am***

**[Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 235 091 402 643 0

Passcode: sZ7cb6wV

***Committee Members: Meg Turville-Heitz (Chair), Matt Foelker (Vice-Chair) (UW), Margaret Burlingham (PACE), Walt Christensen, Elizabeth Hafften (UW), Cassie Richardson, and Scott Schultz (Ag)***

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum)
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
4. Review of the Agenda
5. Approval of the April 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes
6. Public Comment (members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)
7. Communications
  - Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Report
8. Discussion on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report
9. Discussion on Departmental Updates
10. Discussion on Southern Area Association Tour
11. Discussion on Fourth Grade Farm Tour
12. Discussion on Gathering Waters' Working Lands Preservation Award
13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders & Rock River Regenerative Graziers
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP
16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation
17. Review of the Monthly Financial Report
18. Discussion and Possible Action on Committee Meeting Location
19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda
  - Next Scheduled Meeting June 18, 2025 @ 8:30am in Room TBD
20. Adjournment

A quorum of any Jefferson County Committee, Board, Commission, or other body, including the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, may be present at this meeting.

Individuals requiring special accommodation for attendance at this meeting should contact the County Administrator 24 hours prior to the meeting at (920) 674-7101 so appropriate arrangements can be made.

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## April 16, 2025

### 1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Meg Turville-Heitz at 8:30am. Committee Members Meg Turville-Heitz (Chair), Matt Foelker (UW) (Vice-Chair), Margaret Burlingham (PACE), Walt Christensen, and Cassie Richardson (via Teams) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Sam Peterson, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, County Administrator. Scott Schultz (Ag) was excused. Elizabeth Hafften (UW) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Sue Marx (via Teams)

### 2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

### 3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

### 4. Review of the Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

### 5. Approval of the March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

### 7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Report.
- Burlingham attended a virtual Farmland Protection Information Session organized by American Farmland Trust to provide information on the importance of State funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.
- 2024 LWCD Annual Report.

### 8. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Colton Hutchinson attended the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Conference. Hutchinson has been conducting lake and stream monitoring and investigating new sites that could be conducive to monitoring.

Hutchinson has been carrying out lakeshore owner site visits regarding ice heave and shore planting. A conservation partnership meeting was held with LWCD, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, UW-Extension, and Glacierland RC&D to share program updates and discuss partnership opportunities. Cicero is in communication with various construction contractors working on utilities through the county farm to make sure planting can be done. Cicero attended the Waukesha County stormwater workshop with Maureen McBroom to present on the Watertown Waterways Improvement Program. Cicero has attended meetings on Rock River flooding in Ixonia and Dodge County. Joe Strupp, Peterson, and

Hutchinson held a meeting with Rock Lake watershed farmers regarding cost share practices. Strupp, Peterson, and Cicero are working with a farm to empty and close an out of compliance manure storage system and spread the manure according to a nutrient management plan. Tree Sale distribution is April 23<sup>rd</sup> (12:00 pm - 5:30 pm) and April 24<sup>th</sup> (7:30 am - 1:00 pm).

**9. Discussion on Ground Water Study:**

April 7<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson County UW-Extension, Kevin Masarik, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point gave a presentation on the groundwater study results. The event included handouts, nitrate screening, well water testing kits, and information on free arsenic sampling for those who reside in the Towns of Ixonia and Watertown. LWCD staff and Health Department staff answered questions and provided nitrate screening.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Fourth Grade Farm Tour, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Kutz Dairy:**

Cicero discussed the schedule for the tour volunteers: 1<sup>st</sup> shift, 8:00 - 11:45 and 2<sup>nd</sup> shift, 11:15 - 3:00.

**11. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):** JCSB will have a field day June 5<sup>th</sup> at Tom Novak's farm. Last week, R3G had a fencing demonstration field day. Both the JCSB and R3G received \$10,000 innovation grants from The Nature Conservancy.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**  
Voluntary - Terese Rohloff

Foelker made a motion to accept the notice, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:**  
There were no cancellations.

**14. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** The Rollefson easement is moving forward.

**15. view of the Monthly Financial Report:**  
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

**16. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**  
Possible agenda items include: Southern Area Tour

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** May 21, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C2063

**17. Adjournment:**  
Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:05am, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 5/0.



# Land & Water Monthly Newsletter

BUREAU OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection

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May 2025

## **Soil and Water Resources Management (SWRM) Grants**

- Counties should have received the 2026 grant application report to review. Please find your county page and verify the information is correct. If changes are needed, please contact Kim or Hailey by May 9.
- The 2025 SWRM Master Contract for each county will be emailed in late May. The contract must be signed by the authorized county signatory and emailed to DATCP. The DATCP administrator will sign the contract and the fully executed contract will be sent to the county.
- The 2023-2024 SWRM Innovation Grant Report is now available on the [SWRM webpage](#).
- **NEW FORMS REQUIRED!** Many of the SWRM forms have been updated with new content and new numbers. Please refer to [Section 3 of the SWRM Grant Resources](#) webpage to access these forms.

## **Conservation Engineering**

- First review of Engineering Reserve Fund applications resulted in the entirety of the \$150,000 being awarded to six different projects. Notices and next steps will be coming out the week of May 5. Thank you to all of those who applied, and please keep this fund in mind for next year as we hope to secure more funding!
- Hanna Johnson started in the Ag Engineer position in the southeast part of the state on April 21. Hanna comes to DATCP from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and also has past experience at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Hanna will be making her way around to the counties in the southeast area of the state to introduce herself and meet all the great staff that she will be working with.
- We will be reposting our Northern Area Engineer position soon, as well as our Northwest Area Technician position. If you are interested, please check [WiscJobs](#). We will also share these postings via the Land+Water ListServ.

## **Land and Water Conservation Board - LWRM Plans**

- At the June 3, 2025, LWCB meeting, Marinette and Winnebago counties will be presenting LWRM plan five-year reviews to the board. Rusk County will present a plan revision. The board is planning for an educational item related to the impacts of wakeboats on the environment.
- On May 6, 2025, the LWCB Advisory Committee on Research will convene on [Microsoft Teams](#) at 9 a.m.

## **Nutrient Management Updates**

- **NEW!** – We are announcing SnapPlus V3 Summer training opportunities! Registration is free, and more information can be found here: [Nutrient Management Trainings](#).
- **NEW!** - We are excited to share that a new webinar series has been developed on Wisconsin's Nutrient Management Rules. You can find the webinars, along with a quiz, on our website: [Resources for Wisconsin's Qualified Nutrient Management Planners](#).
- Counties that would like some assistance on Nutrient Management Quality Assurance Reviews should email Cody Calkins at [cody.calkins@wisconsin.gov](mailto:cody.calkins@wisconsin.gov). We are looking at providing assistance this year to at least three counties.

## **DATCP Drainage Program**

- The DATCP Drainage Program is developing the spring 2025 quarterly newsletter. The intent of the newsletter will be to highlight successes and challenges facing drainage districts and County Drainage Boards throughout the state. The newsletter is part of the department's overall effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies for all stakeholders involved with Wisconsin drainage law. The department is seeking input for the quarterly newsletter. If you have a project or information that you would like to highlight, please send your ideas to Barton T. Chapman, P.E., Drainage Program Manager at [Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov).
- The Wisconsin Association of Drainage Boards (WADB), in cooperation with DATCP, will be holding regional educational outreach meetings throughout the state in 2025. Meeting logistics will be shared as they become available.
- All activities within drainage districts are managed and administered by a county drainage board. Contact information can be found on the [Drainage Program website](#) or by contacting Barton T. Chapman, P.E., Drainage Program Manager, at [Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Barton.Chapman@Wisconsin.gov).

## **Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) Program**

- The AIS program published [AIS 4602](#) for the Mill Road to Granville Rebuild Project in Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Washington counties, Wisconsin on March 27, 2025.
- The AIS program published [AIS 4627](#) for the Hartford Jackson Interconnect Project in Dodge and Washington counties, Wisconsin on April 30, 2025.
- You can find more information about the AIS program at [agimpact.wi.gov](http://agimpact.wi.gov). You can also contact [DATCPAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov) with questions regarding any active AIS statement or the AIS program.

## **Farmland Preservation (FP) Program and Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)**

- We are currently accepting petitions for the 2025 Agricultural Enterprise Area program until August 1, 2025. Due to the large volume of interest in petitioning this year, we are asking all potential 2025 AEA petitions submit a draft petition narrative by July 1, 2025 for a pre-submission review. If you are interested in petitioning for an AEA during this petition cycle, please contact Wednesday Coye at [wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov](mailto:wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov) to review the petition process and schedule your petitioner interview. For more information AEA petition process, including application materials and examples of successful petitions, visit the [Petitioning for AEA Designation](#) webpage.

- DATCP's [Farmland Preservation Tax Credits](#) webpage has been updated with additional information to help landowners and tax preparers choose the correct tax schedule when filing for an FP tax credit. If you receive any questions from landowners or tax preparers regarding questions related to tax credit claims or tax credit denials, please contact Wednesday Coye at [wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov](mailto:wednesday.coye@wisconsin.gov). Landowners who have received a denial letter have a limited amount of time to file an appeal with Department of Revenue; timely action is critical.

### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

- CREP Monitoring Assistance with LTE Mackenzie  
Mackenzie Shanahan will be rejoining DATCP as the CREP LTE this summer to again focus on assisting LCDs with completing CREP easement site visits and record keeping. Site visits are essential for benchmarking the status of the conservation practice, and for identifying and communicating to landowners issues on the site prior to them becoming severe. Over the past four years, many counties have taken advantage of the assistance offered by the CREP Interns and Mackenzie is once again eager to assist the LCDs. Mackenzie starts May 19 and will be hitting the ground running. Please also feel free to reach out to Mackenzie ([mackenzie.shanahan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:mackenzie.shanahan@wisconsin.gov)) via email to schedule times to visit easements in your county.
- CREP Easement Monitoring Forms and Submittal to DATCP  
LCDs are encouraged to monitor CREP easements in their county, and now is a good time to start planning those visits. The statewide [CREP easement monitoring form](#) published on the DATCP CREP "For Counties" website is available to document your easement visits. LCDs completing visits on their own should check one of boxes "Status" boxes prior to submitting the monitoring forms to DATCP. Status options are 1), In Compliance; 2), In Compliance – Maintenance Needed; or 3), Violation. We appreciate all your efforts to perform easement monitoring visits. This will help DATCP with sending the correct follow-up correspondence to the landowner. Submitting monitoring forms can be done via the CREP secure SFTP site. Please be sure to follow the file naming guidelines listed in the instructions when submitting enrollment materials to the secure website.

Submit as a .pdf file with the following naming format:

[County]\_[Agreement#]\_[OwnerLastName][OwnerFirstName]\_Monitoring\_[Submittal YearMonthDate].pdf

Examples: "Iowa\_1234\_SmithDave\_Monitoring\_2024may18.pdf" or  
"Waupaca\_3245\_FarmEstateTrust\_Monitoring\_2024june03.pdf"

- Enrollment FFY2025 Update  
DATCP continues to wait to hear from our FSA partners for details when CREP will be opened again for enrollment. Reenrollment typically begins in April each year. This year there are 105 CREP 15-year agreements on 933 acres scheduled in 19 counties scheduled to expire. DATCP will provide updates to counties as soon as we receive more details.

### **Soil Health Program**

- The online Soil Health curriculum is live and available on our [soilhealthtraining.wi.gov](http://soilhealthtraining.wi.gov) website. The purpose of this curriculum is to develop a common definition and understanding of soil health and develop some guideposts of how to implement soil health systems on Wisconsin farms. Modules 1-3 establish a common language of soil health in Wisconsin agriculture. Module 4 of the training will be developed in 2025.

- For questions regarding these trainings or the soil health program, or if you have a need related to in-person soil health trainings or events, please contact Randy Zogbaum at [randalll.zogbaum@wisconsin.gov](mailto:randalll.zogbaum@wisconsin.gov).

### **Cover Crop Insurance Premium Rebate Program**

- Program application was available from December 2, 2024 to January 28, 2025 and received over 224,000 acres to review for premium rebate eligibility on a first come, first served basis. Thanks for helping to spread the word about this opportunity to your farm operators. Eligible producers will see a rebate credit on their spring crop insurance premium billing statement.
- More information about this program is available online at [covercropsrebate.wi.gov](https://covercropsrebate.wi.gov).

### **Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)**

- Nine projects were chosen for NOPP grants for Cycle 3 of the program, awarding \$1 million to grantees and UW for research support. With a total request of \$1,153,862.57, difficult decisions were required. Thank you to the scoring team for the professional review and recommendations!

### **Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant (PLWPG) Program**

- 2025 was the most competitive year yet for the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant. We received applications from **49 producer-led groups**, for a total funding request of over **\$1.6 million**. With a program budget of \$1 million, the grants review committee had to make extremely difficult decisions. Priorities were to fund new viable groups while also providing the highest level of funding merited to as many existing groups as possible.



**MAY 6, 2025 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Mike Carlson, Executive Director

608-251-9131 x12

[carlson@gatheringwaters.org](mailto:carlson@gatheringwaters.org)

**Gathering Waters Announces 2025 Land Conservation Leadership Award Winners**

MADISON, WI – [Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts](#) presents the Land Conservation Leadership Awards each year to honor individuals and organizations that devote their time and talents to protecting Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife.

The [2025 award winners](#) are:

Terrie Cooper – *Harold “Bud” Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award*

Cates Family – *Land Legacy Award*

Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department – *Working Lands Preservation Award*

David Grusznski – *Land Trust Professional of the Year*

Sandy DeWalt – *Land Trust Volunteer of the Year*

“Every year, Gathering Waters honors conservation leaders through the Land Conservation Leadership Awards for their dedication to protecting Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife,” said Mike Carlson, executive director of Gathering Waters. “We extend our thanks and gratitude to this year's award winners for their efforts to further land conservation resulting in lasting changes around the state. We're excited to celebrate their accomplishments.” Award winners will be presented with the Land Conservation Leadership Awards at local events throughout the year. Read about each of the award winners below.

**Terrie Cooper – Harold “Bud” Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award**

Terrie Cooper has devoted her life, talents, and boundless energy to Wisconsin land conservation. As [Door County Land Trust's](#) second employee hired in 1999, Terrie's leadership was instrumental in expanding the land trust's protected areas from 800 acres to over 10,000 acres today. Terrie has also successfully co-authored over \$30 million of state and federal land acquisition grants.

Recently retired after a 25-year tenure, Terrie led or played a key role in 216 land acquisition projects in Door County, including critical wetlands, rare plant habitats, shorelines, and wildlife corridors across the Door Peninsula and its islands. Terrie's conservation knowledge, relationship-building skills, and unwavering dedication have reshaped the landscape of Door County and inspired a new generation of conservation leaders.

Prior to her work with Door County Land Trust, Terrie founded the Sheboygan Area Land Conservancy (now Glacial Lakes Conservancy) and worked at various Wisconsin nature centers. With a background in education, Terrie has inspired countless students and adults through field trips, Wisconsin Master Naturalist training sessions, graduate courses as an Adjunct Faculty at UW-Stevens Point, and community outreach. She has mentored many



conservation professionals across Wisconsin. Terrie continues to lead classes and hikes in retirement, sharing her deep love for Wisconsin's natural heritage.

### **Cates Family – Land Legacy Award**

Richard (Dick) and Kim Cates and their family embody the spirit of conservation stewardship on their working farm in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Dick and Kim established a successful grass-fed beef operation on the Cates family's property in 1987, following Aldo Leopold's conservation ethic, using managed (rotational) grazing to nurture healthy pasture. In 2016, their son, Eric, and his wife, Kiley, took over the farm operation. With the help of their daughter, Shannon, and her husband, Dan, they expanded the farm by purchasing adjacent land they protected with a conservation easement through the [Driftless Area Land Conservancy](#).

Lowery Creek flows through the Cates family's farm pastures and directly into the Lower Wisconsin River. Their land management practices have helped elevate Lowery Creek from a Class 2 to a Class 1 trout stream. Conservation easements on their property protect natural springs, ponds, wetlands, and remnant oak savanna currently under restoration. The legacy the Cates family has created on their property demonstrates how sustainable working lands can support healthy ecosystems.

In addition to his work on the farm, Dick co-founded the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers, which has assisted more than 600 beginning farmers. He has also served on the Driftless Area Land Conservancy Board and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Board, and currently serves as Chair of the Town of Wyoming. Kim served as agricultural liaison for US Senator Herb Kohl, and presently serves on the Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board.

The Cates Family regularly hosts visitors at their farm to share knowledge about working conservation, opening their land for educational events and serving as trail hosts for the developing [Driftless Trail](#), a 50-mile footpath connecting three state parks in the region.

### **Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department – Working Lands Preservation Award**

The Jefferson County [Land and Water Conservation Department](#) (LWCD) has preserved Wisconsin's working lands through their innovative programs and partnerships. Located between Madison and Milwaukee, Jefferson County works to achieve intentional growth while maintaining a strong focus on working lands conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. Through this program, the LWCD has successfully protected 1,122 acres of agricultural land through 10 easements, which will keep 35 lots in agriculture instead of being split off for rural development.

The LWCD manages the county's Agricultural Conservation Easement program, established in 2007, which protects high-quality farmland through donated and purchased conservation easements. The LWCD assists farmers through numerous conservation initiatives including the Farmland Preservation Program, which benefits farm owners who adopt soil and water quality standards. The department also provides landowners with funding to help implement a wide variety of conservation practices including cover crops, harvestable filter strips, pasture establishment, rain gardens, and shoreland restoration

projects. After conducting a county-wide groundwater study with UW-Stevens Point, the LWCD and the county's Health Department formed a partnership to inform rural residents about the importance of well water testing and provide education resources on groundwater quality protection and treatment options.

The LWCD has strengthened its agricultural protection efforts through strategic collaboration opportunities, including joining the Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership, led by American Farmland Trust. This partnership supports farmers and landowners looking to protect their legacy by slowing the loss of vital agricultural land.

### **David Grusznski – Land Trust Professional of the Year**

David Grusznski has dedicated 22 years to land conservation during his career with [The Conservation Fund](#), where he currently serves as Milwaukee Programs Director & Senior Field Representative. Starting as an intern in 2003, David has been instrumental in leading the Greenseams and Working Soils programs for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. David has played a big role in protecting working farmlands and natural areas with a focus on floodwater management throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. Having been involved since nearly the beginning of the Greenseams program, David has worked on most of the program's 178 land acquisitions that have protected 7,751 acres of natural areas and working farmlands across multiple counties.

Beyond this, David has served as a mentor and resource to dozens of Wisconsin conservationists. His expertise is widely sought after by local land trusts, as well as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. David's breadth of knowledge in land acquisition, land management, and long-standing relationships with partners have been crucial to the success of conservation efforts that are now considered national models for land conservation.

### **Sandy DeWalt – Land Trust Volunteer of the Year**

Sandy DeWalt lived a lifetime of volunteerism and environmental education. The Land Trust Volunteer of the Year Award is presented in memoriam after her passing in 2025. Sandy was a mentor and volunteer at [Caledonia Conservancy](#) for over 30 years, serving as president for 15 years. She worked tirelessly to expand and improve protected lands and the trail system used by hikers and equestrians. Sandy helped organize Caledonia Conservancy's annual Mane Event (welcoming equestrians to conserved lands for adventures on horseback), planned monthly work days, and led an all-volunteer trail maintenance team, which won a statewide award for pulling the most garlic mustard. Sandy was instrumental in envisioning and creating the School to Nature outdoor education and field trip program at Caledonia Conservancy. For the past 15 years, the program has hosted school groups at the Conservancy—working with over 10,000 students from local public and private schools.

Sandy lived a life of active volunteerism with Caledonia Conservancy and is greatly missed by those who knew and worked with her.

###

**About [Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts](#):** Gathering Waters is a nonprofit organization that helps land trusts, landowners, and communities permanently protect the places that make Wisconsin special. Gathering Waters strengthens 40+ member land trusts throughout the state by advocating for government funding, providing tools, resources, and education opportunities, and increasing statewide awareness of land trusts.

**About the [Land Conservation Leadership Awards](#):** The Land Conservation Leadership Awards recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals and organizations that devote their time and talents to protecting Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife. The awards are presented annually by Gathering Waters to conservation leaders.

For questions about this press release or to request photos of the award winners, please contact:

Amanda Jutrzonka (*she/her*)

Communications Manager

Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts

(608) 251-9131 x11

[www.gatheringwaters.org](http://www.gatheringwaters.org)



# JEFFERSON COUNTY

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2025

### **Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department Receives ‘Working Lands Preservation Award’ From *Gathering Waters: Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts***

JEFFERSON, Wis. — Jefferson County’s Land and Water Conservation Department is being recognized for its land preservation efforts with the ‘Working Lands Preservation Award.’ Gathering Waters: Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts annual Land Conservation Leadership Awards recognizes individual and organization efforts to protect Wisconsin’s land, water and wildlife.

“We’re thrilled to receive this award for our work to protect the natural resources and character that make our county a special place,” said Jefferson County Administrator Michael Luckey. “Based on significant community input, the county’s strategic plan guides our decisions to be intentional in our land use decisions. With this approach, we work to ensure land use harmonizes with our environment, preserves our unique identity and sense of place, and improves the quality of life for residents.”

According to Gathering Waters, the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) has preserved Wisconsin’s working lands through their innovative programs and partnerships. Jefferson County works to achieve intentional growth while maintaining a strong focus on working lands conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. Through this program, the LWCD has successfully protected 1,122 acres of agricultural land through 10 easements, which will keep 35 lots in agriculture instead of being split off for rural development.

The LWCD manages the county’s Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program, established in 2007, which protects high-quality farmland through donated and purchased conservation easements. Margaret Burlingham, a public member of the Land and Water Conservation Committee and a participant in the PACE program, added “Our purchase of development rights and donated programs are giving farmers confidence that they will be able to conduct their agricultural businesses and protect their farmland for future generations.”

The LWCD assists farmers through numerous conservation initiatives including the Farmland Preservation Program, which benefits farm owners who adopt soil and water quality standards. The department also provides landowners with funding to help implement a wide variety of conservation practices including cover crops, harvestable filter strips, pasture establishment, rain gardens, and shoreland restoration projects. After conducting a county-wide groundwater study with UW-Stevens Point, the LWCD and the county’s Health Department formed a partnership to inform rural residents about the importance of well water testing and provide education resources on groundwater quality protection and treatment options.

The LWCD has strengthened its agricultural protection efforts through strategic collaboration opportunities, including joining the Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership, led by American Farmland Trust. This partnership supports farmers and landowners looking to protect their legacy by slowing the loss of vital agricultural land.

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###

04/29/2025  
08:19:07

Jefferson County  
FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

PAGE 1  
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FROM 2025 01 TO 2025 03

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL	TRANFRS/	REVISED	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE	PCT
100 General Fund	APPROP	ADJSTMTS	BUDGET			BUDGET	USED
<b>12401 Land Conservation</b>							
12401 411100 General Property Taxes	-388,487	0	-388,487	-97,121.70	.00	-291,365.11	25.0%
12401 421001 24407 State Aid	-198,798	0	-198,798	.00	.00	-198,798.00	.0%
12401 421001 24408 State Aid	-13,003	0	-13,003	-11,703.02	.00	-1,300.34	90.0%
12401 421001 24410 State Aid	-5,550	-350	-5,900	-1,462.50	.00	-4,437.50	24.8%
12401 432099 Other Permits	-150	0	-150	.00	.00	-150.00	.0%
12401 451020 Other Fees	-200	0	-200	-180.00	.00	-20.00	90.0%
12401 451421 Crep Cancellation Fee	-280	0	-280	.00	.00	-280.00	.0%
12401 457031 24100 Admission Revenue	-1,150	0	-1,150	.00	.00	-1,150.00	.0%
12401 458001 Tree Sales	-8,500	0	-8,500	-6,690.00	.00	-1,810.00	78.7%
12401 458005 Ag & Hortic Supply Revenue	-100	0	-100	.00	.00	-100.00	.0%
12401 458009 Livestock Siting App Review F	-1,500	0	-1,500	-500.00	.00	-1,000.00	33.3%
12401 458013 Farmland Cert Fee	-23,970	0	-23,970	-10,710.00	.00	-13,260.00	44.7%
12401 472007 24410 Municipal Other Charges	-1,800	0	-1,800	.00	.00	-1,800.00	.0%
12401 472337 24409 Municipal Grant Revenue	-15,000	0	-15,000	.00	.00	-15,000.00	.0%
12401 480102 24100 Misc Reimbursement	-1,500	0	-1,500	.00	.00	-1,500.00	.0%
12401 485200 24411 Donations Restricted	0	-4,959	-4,959	.00	.00	-4,958.56	.0%
12401 511110 Salary-Permanent Regular	106,919	0	106,919	25,808.87	.00	81,109.76	24.1%
12401 511210 Wages-Regular	346,441	0	346,441	86,447.04	.00	259,994.13	25.0%
12401 511220 Wages-Overtime	309	0	309	.00	.00	309.18	.0%
12401 511240 24410 Wages-Temporary	7,170	350	7,520	.00	.00	7,520.00	.0%
12401 511330 Wages-Longevity Pay	375	0	375	.00	.00	375.00	.0%
12401 512141 Social Security	32,156	0	32,156	8,147.05	.00	24,008.79	25.3%
12401 512142 Retirement (Employer)	31,139	0	31,139	7,578.43	.00	23,560.63	24.3%
12401 512144 Health Insurance	66,841	0	66,841	15,639.24	.00	51,201.55	23.4%
12401 512145 Life Insurance	54	0	54	17.58	.00	36.30	32.6%
12401 512151 HSA Contribution	6,150	0	6,150	.00	.00	6,150.00	.0%
12401 512153 HRA Contribution	0	0	0	9.64	.00	-9.64	.0%
12401 512173 Dental Insurance	5,448	0	5,448	1,724.58	.00	3,723.42	31.7%
12401 529004 24100 Transportation Services	1,500	0	1,500	.00	.00	1,500.00	.0%
12401 529299 24411 Purchase Care & Service	0	4,909	4,909	.00	.00	4,908.56	.0%
12401 531100 Permits Purchased	50	0	50	50.00	.00	.00	100.0%
12401 531301 Office Equipment	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
12401 531303 Computer Equipmt & Software	150	0	150	.00	.00	150.00	.0%
12401 531311 Postage & Box Rent	1,250	0	1,250	187.65	.00	1,062.35	15.0%
12401 531311 24409 Postage & Box Rent	250	0	250	.00	.00	250.00	.0%
12401 531311 24411 Postage & Box Rent	0	50	50	.00	.00	50.00	.0%
12401 531312 Office Supplies	400	0	400	67.50	.00	332.50	16.9%
12401 531312 24409 Office Supplies	50	0	50	.00	.00	50.00	.0%

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ACCOUNTS FOR:			ORIGINAL	TRANFRS/	REVISED			AVAILABLE	PCT
100 General Fund			APPROP	ADJSTMTS	BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	BUDGET	USED
12401	531313	Printing & Duplicating	400	0	400	.00	.00	400.00	.0%
12401	531313	24409 Printing & Duplicating	350	0	350	.00	.00	350.00	.0%
12401	531314	Small Items Of Equipment	250	0	250	.00	.00	250.00	.0%
12401	531324	Membership Dues	2,045	0	2,045	1,930.21	.00	114.79	94.4%
12401	531326	Advertising	200	0	200	.00	.00	200.00	.0%
12401	531341	Agricultural & Horticultural Suppl	6,550	0	6,550	13.48	.00	6,536.52	.2%
12401	531343	24100 Food	1,150	0	1,150	.00	.00	1,150.00	.0%
12401	531348	Educational Supplies	50	0	50	.00	.00	50.00	.0%
12401	531351	Gas/Diesel	1,450	0	1,450	100.97	.00	1,349.03	7.0%
12401	531351	24409 Gas/Diesel	150	0	150	.00	.00	150.00	.0%
12401	532325	Registration	1,900	0	1,900	1,131.00	.00	769.00	59.5%
12401	532332	Mileage	20	0	20	.00	.00	20.00	.0%
12401	532335	Meals	260	0	260	100.38	.00	159.62	38.6%
12401	532336	Lodging	1,176	0	1,176	784.00	.00	392.00	66.7%
12401	532339	Other Travel & Tolls	20	0	20	.00	.00	20.00	.0%
12401	533225	Telephone & Fax	325	0	325	84.42	.00	240.58	26.0%
12401	533236	Wireless Internet	1,025	0	1,025	168.84	.00	856.16	16.5%
12401	535242	Maintain Machinery & Equip	550	0	550	124.83	.00	425.17	22.7%
12401	535259	Tree Planter Service	250	0	250	.00	.00	250.00	.0%
12401	535349	Other Supplies	60	0	60	44.25	.00	15.75	73.8%
12401	535349	24410 Other Supplies	80	0	80	.00	.00	80.00	.0%
12401	571004	IP Telephony Allocation	765	0	765	191.25	.00	573.75	25.0%
12401	571005	Duplicating Allocation	263	0	263	65.76	.00	197.24	25.0%
12401	571009	MIS PC Group Allocation	21,414	0	21,414	5,353.50	.00	16,060.50	25.0%
12401	571010	MIS Systems Grp Alloc(ISIS)	5,126	0	5,126	1,281.51	.00	3,844.49	25.0%
12401	571020	Fleet Allocation	2,500	0	2,500	.00	.00	2,500.00	.0%
12401	571020	24409 Fleet Allocation	280	0	280	.00	.00	280.00	.0%
12401	591519	Other Insurance	4,628	0	4,628	1,110.30	.00	3,517.32	24.0%
<b>12402 wildlife Crop Damage</b>									
12402	421001	State Aid	-20,000	0	-20,000	-2,813.71	.00	-17,186.29	14.1%
12402	529299	Purchase Care & Services	20,000	0	20,000	3,573.71	.00	16,426.29	17.9%
<b>12404 Local Cost Share Program</b>									
12404	421001	24403 State Aid	-11,000	0	-11,000	.00	.00	-11,000.00	.0%
12404	472337	24404 Municipal Grant Revenue	-60,000	0	-60,000	-92,165.45	.00	32,165.45	153.6%
12404	529299	24403 Purchase Care & Service	11,000	0	11,000	.00	.00	11,000.00	.0%
12404	529299	24404 Purchase Care & Service	60,000	0	60,000	.00	.00	60,000.00	.0%

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ACCOUNTS FOR:				ORIGINAL	TRANFRS/	REVISED			AVAILABLE	PCT
100 General Fund				APPROP	ADJSTMTS	BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	BUDGET	USED
12404	594950	24403	Operating Reserve	0	1,925	1,925	.00	.00	1,925.00	.0%
12404	594950	24404	Operating Reserve	79,832	24,665	104,496	.00	.00	104,496.38	.0%
12404	699700	24403	Resv Applied Operating	0	-1,925	-1,925	.00	.00	-1,925.00	.0%
12404	699700	24404	Resv Applied Operating	-79,832	-24,665	-104,496	.00	.00	-104,496.38	.0%
<b>12405 DATCP Cost Share</b>										
12405	421001	24405	State Aid	0	-22,000	-22,000	.00	.00	-22,000.00	.0%
12405	421003	24405	State Aid GPR	-12,000	0	-12,000	.00	.00	-12,000.00	.0%
12405	421004	24405	State Aid Bonded	-29,500	-35,000	-64,500	.00	.00	-64,500.00	.0%
12405	511210	24405	Wages-Regular	0	1,000	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
12405	521219	24405	Other Professional Serv	0	500	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
12405	529299	24405	Purchase Care & Service	0	17,000	17,000	.00	.00	17,000.00	.0%
12405	531343	24405	Food	0	700	700	.00	.00	700.00	.0%
12405	531348	24405	Educational Supplies	0	500	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
12405	536539	24405	Other Rents & Leases	0	2,300	2,300	.00	.00	2,300.00	.0%
12405	591519	24405	Other Insurance	0	0	0	2.34	.00	-2.34	.0%
12405	593701	24405	Cost Share Payment	41,500	35,000	76,500	4,680.00	.00	71,820.00	6.1%
12405	594950	24405	Operating Reserve	2,800	0	2,800	.00	.00	2,800.00	.0%
12405	699700	24405	Resv Applied Operating	-2,800	0	-2,800	.00	.00	-2,800.00	.0%
<b>12406 Non-Metallic Mining</b>										
12406	411100	24406	General Property Taxes	15,564	0	15,564	3,891.00	.00	11,673.00	25.0%
12406	432004	24406	Non-Metallic Permit Fee	-900	0	-900	.00	.00	-900.00	.0%
12406	432005	24406	Non-Metallic Annual Fee	-13,040	0	-13,040	.00	.00	-13,040.00	.0%
12406	474175	24406	Highway Billed	-2,410	0	-2,410	.00	.00	-2,410.00	.0%
12406	531311	24406	Postage & Box Rent	70	0	70	26.93	.00	43.07	38.5%
12406	531312	24406	Office Supplies	50	0	50	.00	.00	50.00	.0%
12406	531351	24406	Gas/Diesel	80	0	80	.00	.00	80.00	.0%
12406	532325	24406	Registration	350	0	350	175.00	.00	175.00	50.0%
12406	532335	24406	Meals	40	0	40	.00	.00	40.00	.0%
12406	532336	24406	Lodging	196	0	196	.00	.00	196.00	.0%
<b>12407 Farmland Easement</b>										
12407	424001	24407	Federal Grants	-150,000	0	-150,000	.00	.00	-150,000.00	.0%
12407	458003	24407	Farmland Easement Fee	-750	0	-750	-750.00	.00	.00	100.0%
12407	481001	24407	Interest & Dividends	-6,000	0	-6,000	-7,086.02	.00	1,086.02	118.1%



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100 General Fund		APPROP	ADJSTMTS	BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	BUDGET	USED
12407	531311 Postage & Box Rent	20	0	20	.78	.00	19.22	3.9%
12407	531312 Office Supplies	20	0	20	.00	.00	20.00	.0%
12407	531313 Printing & Duplicating	30	0	30	.00	.00	30.00	.0%
12407	594816 Capital Conserve Easement	279,000	0	279,000	.00	.00	279,000.00	.0%
12407	594950 Operating Reserve	384,289	71,748	456,037	.00	.00	456,036.89	.0%
12407	699800 Resv Applied Capital	-506,609	-71,748	-578,357	.00	.00	-578,356.89	.0%
<b>12408 County Farm</b>								
12408	411100 General Property Taxes	-2,737	0	-2,737	-684.18	.00	-2,052.50	25.0%
12408	529170 Grounds Keeping Charges	737	0	737	.00	.00	736.68	.0%
12408	535249 Sundry Repair	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%
<b>12409 Farm Drainage Board</b>								
12409	411100 General Property Taxes	-10,000	0	-10,000	-2,499.99	.00	-7,500.01	25.0%
12409	514151 Per Diem	4,450	0	4,450	.00	.00	4,450.00	.0%
12409	521212 Legal	1,300	0	1,300	.00	.00	1,300.00	.0%
12409	531312 Office Supplies	200	0	200	.00	.00	200.00	.0%
12409	531313 Printing & Duplicating	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
12409	531324 Membership Dues	100	0	100	100.00	.00	.00	100.0%
12409	531349 Other Operating Expenses	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
12409	532325 Registration	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
12409	532332 Mileage	2,150	0	2,150	.00	.00	2,150.00	.0%
12409	591513 Drainage Board Insurance	1,500	0	1,500	1,385.00	.00	115.00	92.3%

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	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	0	-62,369.53	.00	62,369.53	.0%