



Community Development

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Land & Water Conservation

Land and Water Division staff and partners prepare and implement the Land and Water Resources Management Plan under the authority of Chapter 92, Wisconsin Statutes; promoting conservation of long-term soil productivity; protecting the quality of natural resources; enhancing water quality and focusing on correction of severe soil erosion problems. The Division is also tasked with managing the Recycling program since the County serves as the "Responsible Unit" for recycling on behalf of the County's municipalities.

Provide Technical and financial assistance to landowners and partners to protect and improve St. Croix County ground and surface water.

Description

- This goal receives the most staff time and focuses on implementing projects and practices that reduce pollutant loads to ground and surface waters. There are a variety of financial cost share resources utilized including DNR TRM, DATCP Bond and SEG, Producer-Led grants, County cost-share, and landowner and partner resources. Staff assist landowners and partners technically through conservation planning, project design, and ensuring that practices are designed and installed correctly.

Success Criteria

- Reductions in phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment. Go for over 2000 lbs P reduced per year.
- Utilization of all cost share funds.
- Successful acquisition of funding for Kinnikinnic TRM, Extra SEG, Producer Led Grant, and AIS

Collaborate with and support environmental partners and stewards to further conservation goals.

Description

- Relationships are important for advancing conservation. Staff facilitate and are encouraged to work with our partners to meet our shared conservation goals. We will collaborate with USDA-NRCS and USDA-FSA, local producer led groups, agronomists, USFW, UW Extension, and others to implement conservation.

Success Criteria

- At years end a record of collaborative work and coordination will be evident. Progress working with USDA-NRCS is needed as we prepare for increases in funding to USDA-NRCS. The county can take advantage of this by providing them with technical assistance and be compensated. Our collaborative approach will prepare Land and Water Conservation Division to utilize USDA's funding to benefit county landowners. Collaborative work examples will be compiled at years end.

Deliver education and outreach related to soil, water, recycling, and other environmental issues.

Description

- Education and outreach will involve structured outdoor school events coordinated by Miller Escapes and supported by Land and Water Conservation staff. Additional venues include

agronomist field days throughout the growing season, Farm City Days, Recycling events, the tree distribution event, and AIS outreach.

Success Criteria

- Numbers of individuals reached will be tracked and contacts made with county landowners through direct contact at events and through Facebook posts etc.. Record the number of people reached through attendance at events and meetings to gauge impact.

Conduct resource monitoring and protection actions to document current conditions, trends, and land use impacts.

Description

- This goal seeks to quantify resource conditions and track trends for surface and groundwater.
- Work will include nitrate clinics, stream monitoring, groundwater sampling, and statistical analysis of results where appropriate to build relationships between conditions and land uses. The annual transect survey data will also be collected and compared to previous years.
- Work will also include following up on complaints and violations that potentially impact water quality and seeking resolution of problem situations.

Success Criteria

- Numbers of samples collected and relaying the results and conclusions to citizens and leadership.
- Land use data collected on cover crops, minimum tillage, and other practices established for the year is recorded and compared to previous years.
- Practices installed during the year are uploaded into the county database.
- The number of complaints and situations resolved.

Protect, restore, and improve farmland soils and fish and wildlife habitat.

Description

- This goal includes programs and activities to protect farmland such as the Farmland Protection Program, soil quality initiatives, and projects implemented to protect and restore habitat such as prairie plantings, streambank restorations, and wetland restorations.
- On-the-ground activities will often rely on partner funds such as through CREP and USFW. Additional work to benefit habitat will be completed through the AIS program.

Success Criteria

- Number of landowners utilizing FPP, number reached through soil quality programming, and number of projects implemented that benefit wildlife.

Implement an effective Recycling and Hazardous Waste Program for St. Croix County

Description

- Plan and organize recycling events and Household Hazardous Waste events while keeping events on budget and report total materials collected and properly disposed. Implement an effective Outreach and Education Program including campaign messaging using newsletters, virtual and in-person presentations, videos, printed materials, web sites, and Face Book posts. Serve as the responsible unit for St. Croix County working with all municipalities to implement recycling programs.

Success Criteria

- Record of materials collected and cost per unit in comparison to previous years.
- Number of citizens reached and efforts completed.
- Meet state reporting and grant requirements for Recycling and Hazardous Waste programs.