



Land and Water Conservation Board
County Land and Water Resource Management Plan
Five Year Review of LWRM Plans

County: Pepin

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

Answer these four questions in writing (not to exceed 4 pages)

1. Provide a representative number of accomplishments that can be directly traced to activities identified in multiple work plans. For each accomplishment, explain how the planning process helped the county achieve its outcome, including planning adjustments that helped better target county activities.

The number #1 goal stated in Pepin County's LWRM plan is to "Protect and Enhance the Quality and Quantity of Our Water Resources." For this reason, this has always been our top priority when juggling the programming we offer and issues we face. With this goal in mind, Pepin County has partnered with surrounding counties to participated in our first TMDL establishment, Watershed Assesment Plan, and 9-Key Element Plan.

* Lake Pepin TMDL: partnership with Pierce and St.Croix counties, as well as NRCS to share data with the DNR to draft a total maximum daily load for the Lake Pepin watershed. This project is nearing completion.

* Eau Galle Watershed Assesment Plan: partnership with Pierce, Dunn, and St. Croix counties, NRCS, and DNR to begin more extensive data collection and draft a plan for future conservation work within the watershed.

* Bear Creek 9-Key Element Plan: partnership with Buffalo County and the DNR to draft our first 9-key element plan. We are in the process of drafting the plan that will set the direction of conservation practices within this watershed.

On the groundwater side of water quality, we have continued and enhanced our testing efforts. Our current goal of our well monitoring program is to test the same wells, once every 5 years to help us establish trends in groundwater within the county. 2025 will mark the 9th year of consistant data collection. With one final year in the second cycle, we will then begin the third cycle through, hoping to test the same wells a third time. We are working with the UW-Steven's point WEAL to analyze this data.

Our County Board has also shown it's support by giving us access to ARPA funding to purchase equipment to host pop-up well sampling events for the public to help educate, as well as source testing to supplement our annual well testing program in target areas.

2. Identify any areas where the county was unable to make desired progress in implementing activities identified in multiple work plans. For each area identified, explain the work plan adjustments that were made to refocus planned activities. If no areas are identified, explain how the county was able to make progress in all the areas planned.

Our biggest short coming within our Land Conservation Department here in Pepin County is a broad scale issue concerning implementation. Over the last 5 years, we have had 5 different technicians. With only one designated technician in our small county, the revolving door of this position has made it very difficult to maintain farmer relationships and reach the finish line in implementing additional nutrient management coverage, hard practice installations, and compliance checks.

It could be said that we have been in survival mode as a department, maintaining contracts and programming already set in motion, but adding additional coverage has been a struggle. I'm confident with current staff and training opportunities, we will begin to see more progress on that front.

Admittedly, our goal of "To mitigate, reverse and respond to changes in our Climate," has not received the attention that it warrants with the staffing issues mentioned previously. We observe the fact that the increase in temperatures and unpredictable nature of precipitation is an issue, however, extra steps to track and address these issues have not been at the forefront of our attention.

3. Describe how the county's work plans implement its priority farm strategy and the effectiveness of county actions implementing agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms. In particular, the county should describe outreach, farm inventories, and additional funds that were pursued to implement its strategy.

Annual work plans are a way of helping our County reflect on all facets of the conservation field, giving measureable goals that allow staff to track progress. This is a useful tool when deciding the priority ranking in hard practice installation, nutrient management coverage, and other incentive programming.

One Example in Pepin County includes the establishment and continued support of the Farmers4Health producer-led group. The Bear Creek Watershed is ranked as #1 in priority within Pepin County due to impaired waters, soil loss, number of manure storage structures, and elevated nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in wells. Pepin County, in partnership with the Farmers4Health group, have made a substantial effort to implementing practices to mitigate risk. Some of these practices include cover crop installation, manure management application, critical area plantings, as well as educational sessions, source testing, and increased enforcement strategy.

The establishment of our first 9-key element plan also plays a role in priority farm approach. This watershed ranked very high for both Pepin and Buffalo counties due to resource concerns, which is why it was an easy decision to start 9-key planning there. The county also partnered with the Farmers4Health and UW-Extension to place the second lysimeter site in the state within this watershed. We continue to help monitor and collect data for this research.

4. Provide representative examples that show changes in direction for work planning in the upcoming five years, with specific examples provided showing adjustments in planned activities in the county's most recent work plan.

The direction of our work continues in the same direction as it did in 2020. I can say with the COVID-19 epidemic, it has pushed us to pursue other opportunities and increase the usage of digital technology. In 2021 and 2022, public meetings and educational activities were starting to come back together but in some ways, it had a damaging impact in the connectedness of farmers and the government agencies. Participation in public events dropped durastically. We are just starting to see some of that increase again.

Another goal listed in our LWRM is "To Promote a Positive Conservation Ethic." With the movement to digital media, we have increased our online presence but over 200%. We currently have social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and a County website where we can utilize the platform to share deadlines, outreach events, and even fun facts to boost participation.

We have also placed a prominent emphasis on our youth education program. We began hosting an annual Earth Day program in our county park that introduces middle school age kids to a plethora of conservation related topics every year. It's encouraging to see youth intrested in conservation along with their teachers. We are also invited to a back to school kick off event for the middle school, youth fishing contest for all ages, poster and speaking contest, and we also put together the Rick Wayne Conservation Kids award, where kids are nominated for their conservation efforts.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

- a. The most current annual work prepared by the county.
- b. The work plan for the previous year that includes a column that identifies the progress in implementing the planned activities for that year.

Board Review Process

The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning. Counties have the option to prepare a brief presentation to illustrate their successes and future priorities.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of these questions (including attachments) on:

Signature of Authorized Representative:
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Trumble', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 08-11-25

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:
Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov

2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Guidance

Items included in the annual work plan must be consistent with the goals and objectives described in the County's LWRM Plan. References to the county LWRM plan, such as goal number or objective number, are not required, but can be added to Table 1 under "Category."

The work plan template includes five tables. Table 1 is designed to allow for a more detailed and county-specific narrative summary of planned activities and performance measurements. Tables 2, 3 and 4 are designed to capture activities that are more easily quantified. If you include information in Table 2, 3 and 4, you do not have to also include this information in Table 1. Table 5 can be used to meet LWRM planning requirements for costs and hours.

To complete Table 1:

- Describe all relevant planned activities for each applicable category, including those beyond what is supported directly with SWRM funds. If a category is not applicable in your county, skip that category.
- Identify benchmarks for each planned activity.
- Identify performance measures. In particular, performance measures related to sediment and nutrient reductions if applicable and known.

Please note, the items identified in the template are **examples** of activities and performance measurements. It is not expected that all counties do all of these things. Replace and/or delete each activity as needed. If there is a category that is not applicable, do not include it in your work plan.

Examples of practices for each category and examples of landscape-scale surveys and/or inventories are listed below:

Cropland practices may include:

- NM plan development (acres)
- Grassed waterways (acres)
- Cover crops (acres)
- No-till (acres)
- WASCOB (number)
- Grade stabilization (number)
- Critical area stabilization (acre)
- Contour strips (acres)

Livestock practices may include:

- Barnyard runoff control – not roof or diversion (number)
- Roof runoff systems (number)
- Clean water diversion (feet)
- Grazing plan (acres)
- Manure storage closure (number)
- Trails and walkways (linear feet)
- Livestock watering facilities (number)
- Stream crossing (feet)
- Livestock fencing (feet)
- Feed storage runoff control (number)
- Milking center waste water (number)

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Water quality practices may include:

- Streambank/shoreline protection (feet)
- Well decommissioning (number)
- Sinkhole treatments (number)
- Riparian buffers (acres)
- Critical area stabilization (number)

Forestry practices may include:

- Forest management plans (number)
- Trails, access roads and walkways (number)
- Stream crossings (number)

Landscape-scale survey and/or inventories might include:

- Transect survey
- Use of SnapPlus to estimate soil loss
- Mapping of certain geographic features
- Inventories of certain types of practices or where practices are needed
- Inventory of certain types of operations or structures within WQMAS
- EVAAL of areas in county

**PEPIN COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of "planned activities" in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management - Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions. - Cropland conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions. - Conduct Transect Survey	- 5 farm inspections in top 3 watersheds HUC12s: (10) 070500051202; 070500051201; 070500051203; - 5 Farmland Preservation Program Compliance checks (10) - Plan/design/install cropland practices in top 10 HUC12s: - 300 acres of NMPs cost-shared (800) - 3 grade stabilization structures (5) - 2000 hours providing technical assistance including training, plan review, design, install ✓ - 2 Transect surveys completed (spring & fall) ✓	# inspections performed. # compliance certificates issued. # staff hours expended for training, design and installation # of practices installed - # acres NMP cost-shared/new installed - # waterways - # grade stabilization structures - # critical area stabilizations - # Transect surveys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock - Livestock facility conservation practices installed to implement state performance standards and prohibitions	- 0 manure storage facility closure (40hrs) (1) - 0 manure storage facility permit for new or substantial alteration (ordinance) (30hrs) (1) <i>livestock facility inspections part of planned activities and benchmarks found in cropland category.</i>	- # manure storage facility closure - # manure storage facility permits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories) - Conservation practices installed to implement LWRM priorities - Monitor & document conservation efforts	- Maintain existing county buffer contracts ✓ - 2 buffers installed along streams in top 3 HUC12 (5) - 1 streambank restoration ✓ - 0 well decommissions (5) - 6 streams monitored for condition (nutrients) ✓ - 14 streams monitored for condition (WAV) ✓ - 2 wells monitored for water depth ✓ - 50 private wells monitored for condition ✓ - 0 CREP contracts reviewed/promoted (10) - 0 new CREP contract (1)	- # buffers installed along streams in top 3 HUC12 - # streambank restoration - # well decommissions - # streams monitored for condition (nutrients) - # streams monitored for condition (WAV) - # wells monitored for water depth - # private wells monitored for condition - # CREP contracts reviewed/promoted - # new CREP contract / # reenroll CREP contracts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forestry</i> 		
Forestry	<i>Practice installation</i>	<i>Type and units of practice(s) installed</i>

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		<i>Amount of cost-share dollars spent</i> <i># lbs of sediment reduced (using any approved method)</i> <i># lbs of P reduced (using any approved method)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invasive</i> 		
Invasive species - Invasive species awareness and management	- 5 landowners assisted ✓ - Assist township and county highway department in invasive species control ✓ - Participate/assist with Lower Chippewa Invasive Partnership (LCIP) events and projects ✓	# of landowners assisted # staff hours (80)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Wildlife</i> 		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species) - Habitat protection and restoration	- 10,000 trees sold for wildlife habitat and other conservation practices ✓ - Maintain Silver Birch Lake aeration system ✓	# trees sold Maintain aeration system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Urban</i> 		
Urban issues	<i>Stormwater control</i> ✓ <i>Construction site erosion control</i> ✓ <i>Floodplain protection</i> ✓	<i>Number of site visits</i> <i>Number of plans reviews</i> <i>Number of permits issued</i> <i>Number of compliance issues resolved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Watershed</i> 		
Watershed strategies	- Implement County priority/farm watershed approach: ranked HUC12s. ✓ - Community engagement through County Water Resource Team (LCD, Zoning, Public Health, UWEX) and provide groundwater outreach events. ✓ - Bear Creek-Chippewa Groundwater Quality Farmer Led Group ✓	# of parcels evaluated for compliance (see cropland and livestock categories) # of meetings held (see table below) # of partnerships made/developed (see table below) Advise and assist in facilitation of Farmer Led Group Grant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Other</i> 		
Other - Watershed protection in PL-566 watersheds - Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program (ordinance) - Management of County Parks	- 6 PL-566 structures Inspected and maintained ✓ - 15 Nonmetallic mine reclamation sites evaluated (110hrs) ✓ - Maintain & administer County Park system for recreational opportunities (140hrs) ✓ - 5 projects coordinated through local organizations ✓ - 55 Media releases ✓	# structures evaluated # mines sites reviewed/evaluated # staff hours at County Park system # projects coordinated # media releases # students reached # hours for Multi Agency Groundwater Quality Improvement Plan

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(ordinance) - Work with local non-profit organizations for conservation programs - Conservation education programs for public/youth - Initiate/Develop Multi-agency Groundwater Quality Improvement Plan	- 300 students in education programming ✓ - 150 hours for Multi-Agency GW Improvement Plan ✓	
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	-	-
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1 ✓	1
Manure storage closure	1 ✓	1
Livestock facility siting	-	-
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	15 ✓	15 renewals
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	-	-
Shoreland zoning	-	-
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	-	-
Other	-	-

**PEPIN COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
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Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	5 (20)
For FPP	5 (5 old 5 new)
For NR 151	5 (10)
Animal waste ordinance	*part of above inspections (35)
Livestock facility siting	-
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	-
Nonmetallic mining	15 ✓

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1 ✓
Field days	2 ✓
Trainings/workshops/ presentations	2 ✓
4	
Newsletters	-
Social media posts	100 ✓
News release/story	25 ✓

Table 5: Staff Hours and Expected Costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist		
Technician		
Support Costs		
Total	5840	215,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
County	N/A	\$29,150
Bonding/SEG	N/A	\$80,000

**PEPIN COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
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Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRM plan can be added in each category)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITH BENCHMARKS If applicable identify focus areas, e.g. HUC 12 watershed code (examples of types of “planned activities” in italics)	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS (examples in italics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cropland</i> 		
Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management	<i>5 NR151 compliance checks</i> <i>5 Farmland preservation compliance checks</i> <i>5 New practices installed</i> <i>500 New NMP acres</i> <i>2 transect surveys</i>	<i># inspections performed.</i> <i># compliance certificates issued.</i> <i># of practices installed</i> <i># acres NMP cost-shared/new installed</i> <i># Transect surveys</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock</i> 		
Livestock	<i>2 potential new manure storage permits/installs</i> <i>2 potential old manure storage closures</i>	<i># of completed plans/permits</i> <i># of completed closures</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Water quality</i> 		
Water quality/quantity (other than activities already listed in other categories)	<i>3 new practice installation</i> <i>50 well water tests</i> <i>1 new well water testing clinic</i>	<i># of projects completed</i> <i># of wells tested</i> <i>Report of clinic testing results</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forestry</i> 		
Forestry	<i>Referral to NRCS/DNR</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invasive</i> 		
Invasive species	<i>3 new invasive removal plans implemented</i> <i>PL-566 structure invasive species removal</i>	<i>3 surveys completed and plans executed</i> <i>6 PL-566 structures complete</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Wildlife</i> 		
Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat (other than forestry or invasive species)	<i>Annual tree sale</i> <i>Maintain Silver Birch aerator systems</i>	<i># of total trees sold</i> <i>Successful execution of winter aeration in Silver Birch</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Urban</i> 		
Urban issues	<i>Technical assistance only</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Watershed</i> 		
Watershed strategies	<i>5-year review of land and water plan</i> <i>First TMDL establishment</i> <i>First 9-key element plan</i>	<i>5-year review to State in October</i> <i>Eau Galle TMDL complete</i> <i>Bear Creek Watershed Plan Complete</i>

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- *Other*

Other	<i>15 current nonmetallic mines 1 new mine/permit/reclamation plan</i>	<i>Number of plans reviewed Number of inspections complete</i>
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Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits anticipated to be issued
Feedlot permits	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
Manure storage closure	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
Livestock facility siting	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	<i>15</i>	<i>15 renewals, 1 new</i>
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Shoreland zoning	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Other	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	<i>10</i>
For FPP	<i>5</i>
For NR 151	<i>10</i>
Animal waste ordinance	<i>5</i>
Livestock facility siting	<i>0</i>
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	<i>5</i>
Nonmetallic mining	<i>15</i>

**PEPIN COUNTY 2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	2
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	8
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	100
News release/story	25

Table 5: Staff Hours and Expected Costs (staff can be combined or listed individually)

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist		
Technician		
Support Costs		
Total	5840	215,000
Cost Sharing (can be combined)		
County Funded Programing		\$ 30,000
LWRM/SEG		\$ 80,000