

WINNEBAGO COUNTY PROGRAM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE
Developed - April 2007

***INSTRUCTIONS:** For each program, list the Scheduled Review Date, the Department, the Department Mission Statement and the Program Title at the top of the page, and answer the following questions for each program. The overall response for each program should be no greater than two (2) pages in length.*

SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE: 07/17/07

DEPARTMENT: Land and Water Conservation Department

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT: To provide competent, professional services in the planning, design, and implementation of programs and projects that protect, restore, and sustain the natural resources of Winnebago County.

PROGRAM: Design & Construction Management (DCM)

1. **Describe the program, its purpose and goals.** Design, cost estimations, layout, and construction management services for "best management" practices installed to improve and protect surface and ground water quality; prevent soil erosion; manage stormwater runoff; protect and expand woodland resources; restore and enhance wetlands and upland habitat and protect and restore stream banks and shorelands. This includes the administration and delivery of the USDA/WI Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.
2. **Who is the program intended to serve?** Landowners and Municipalities within the unincorporated areas of Winnebago County. However we are increasing the number of projects and programs that include the cities and their constituents as partners and/or eligible cost share recipients. **How many are served?** Winnebago County has approximately 2500 landowners with 5 acres or more involved in agricultural activity. Approximately 1200 producers operate these lands. Overall, the county has 4270 landowners with 5 acres or more. We have approximately 7500 riparian landowners within the county. Depending on funding and the Best Management Practices (BMPs) being installed, LWCD will normally sign 30 to 40 Cost Share Agreements and install 20 to 30 BMPs annually with multiple landowners.
3. **Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations?** Yes.
4. **Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department?** Yes. **If so, how?** This program directly supports LWCD's Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM), Resource Plan Reviews (RPR) and Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) by providing the technical and construction over site expertise to install needed BMPs and to insure compliance with County and State Conservation Standards.
5. **How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship?** These practices are installed to reduce pollutant loading into the Winnebago System. Every time a project is in place our department is that much more effective in accomplishing our goal. Many times we work with the Highway Dept. or Parks Dept. to install these practices either as demonstration sites or on individual landowners. This helps keep the cost of the project down and reduces the cost sharing required from the constituents and the county.
6. **How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented?** By tracking the practices installed, the pollutant load reduction achieved by those practices and comparing it to the goals identified in our Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP). Also, as our landscape and land use change, we continually reassess what BMPs need to be added or moved on the priority scale within this program. We also work closely with the

landowners, town and county town officials and municipalities to assure we have satisfied the need and/or addressed the concern.

7. **Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program?** No.
8. **State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all programs in your department and briefly explain.** This program ranks #1 out of 5 programs. This program deals with the actual implementation and installation of conservation practices on the landscape. Nothing happens if the BMPs are not put into action on the land. It is mandated by NR 151 and ATCP 50 that the "Agricultural Performance Standards" be enforced and that water quality concerns on cropland be addressed with producers. Also CREP is directed to us by the DATCP. Therefore this is our most important effort as a department.
9. **Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community? No. Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers (i.e. private entities, other County departments, other governmental units)?** The installation of water quality BMPs in the rural/agricultural sector is unique to LWCD. Private engineering firms could be hired to do some work, but their expertise is not in these areas and again their costs would be prohibitive. This too is a State mandated and County ordinance driven program.
10. **If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)?** From a water quality perspective, to discontinue this program would have far reaching negative impacts. From an economic liability viewpoint, the county would jeopardize hundreds of thousands of grant funds and cost share dollars. Legally, not to comply with Chapter 92, NR 151 and ATCP 50 would be a violation of State Law.
11. **What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)** Literally every project installed is cost-shared by state, federal or county dollars. State and Federal funding provide 100% reimbursement to the county for the practice costs. We also receive funding for staff time. \$143,000 in 2007 for staffing and \$272,000 for BMPs. Our county funding also helps us leverage additional dollars. This program is very effective for the cost incurred by our county.
12. **Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community?** No.
13. **What are your ideas for finding efficiencies in your Department (i.e. reducing duplication of services, better use of technology, reducing waste of resources, opportunities for partnering, opportunities for combining programs, personnel, functions etc, time-saving ideas, identifying 'sacred cows' etc.)? (Note – this question will not be scored).**
We are using more demonstration projects to increase BMP exposure and landowner understanding. We are partnering with multiple conservation clubs, lake associations, special interest groups and the media to cover projects and events, and to help spread our message of conservation. We work with Parks and Highway to mutually benefit the county and landowners when installing certain BMPs. We are constantly testing new and innovative products to see if or where they might help us better construct a project. We are currently awaiting a decision from the WDNR on an Environmental Assessment for installing offshore shoreline protection projects. When it is approved it will substantially expedite acquiring DNR permits and satisfying public hearing requirements.

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DEPARTMENT: Land and Water Conservation Department

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT: To provide competent, professional services in the planning, design, and implementation of programs and projects that protect, restore, and sustain the natural resources of Winnebago County.

PROGRAM: Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM)

1. **Describe the program, its purpose and goals.** Land and water resource assessments, inventories, management plans, training and information and education services provided to landowners on individual land parcels and units of government for site specific and regional concerns. Complete, maintain and revise as the State mandated Winnebago County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP). Reduce Sediment and Phosphorus loading into the Winnebago System as identified in the LWRMP by providing information and solutions for drainage and erosion concerns for individuals, towns and Winnebago County.
2. **Who is the program intended to serve?** Landowners and Municipalities within the unincorporated areas of Winnebago County. However we are increasing the number of projects and programs that include the cities and their constituents as partners and/or eligible cost share recipients. **How many are served?** Winnebago County has approximately 2500 landowners with 5 acres or more involved in agricultural activity. Approximately 1200 producers operate these lands. Overall, the county has 4270 landowners with 5 acres or more. We have approximately 7500 riparian landowners within the county.
3. **Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations?** Absolutely.
4. **Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department?** Yes. **If so, how?** This program directly supports LWCD's Resource Plan Reviews (RPR) and Design & Construction Management (DCM) Programs by identifying and addressing storm water management, upland erosion, shoreline/streambank erosion and livestock impacts with individual landowners and municipalities in advance of anticipated resource impacts. It supports the UWEX basin educator and community development programs in their efforts to work with landowners and communities regarding water quality issues.
5. **How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship?** Providing needed technical assistance for resource assessments and inventories in advance of the impact being considered is how we build and maintain our very solid relationships with individual landowners and town government. LWCD's involvement early in the process reduces the need for corrective actions later and greatly improves departmental and county efficiency.
6. **How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented?** By tracking the practices installed and the pollutant load reduction achieved by those practices along with how in field observations compare to the training sessions presented regarding the value and proper installation of the practice. We also work closely with the landowners, contractors, developers, and town officials to assure we have satisfied the need and/or addressed the concern.

7. **Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program?** No. Private consultant/engineering firms fees would be cost prohibitive to the constituents and the county.
8. **State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all programs in your department and briefly explain.** This program ranks #2 out of 5 programs. This program deals with very large landmass to individual sites and is the foundation on which we build other programs. Assessments and inventories provide the information for land and water resource management with individual landowners to full town drainage analysis.
9. **Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community?** No, this program and its multiple funding sources are statutorily assigned to the County LWCD through its Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP). **Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers (i.e. private entities, other County departments, other governmental units)?** This program is specific to LWCD and private firms could do only limited technical assistance, but again their costs would be prohibitive and not cost shared for the constituent. They have no eligibility for this grant.
10. **If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)?** From a resource/water quality standpoint the risk would be huge. From an economic liability, the program makes the County LWCD eligible to receive over \$415,000 in funding of which \$143,000 is for staff, providing a substantial levy reduction, the balance is provided to landowners to cost share the installation of conservation practices. Local contractors, excavators and other needed businesses within the county benefit greatly from this funding source. From the legal side, Winnebago County is not eligible for these funds without a State approved LWRMP.
11. **What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)** Based on the current pollutant load reduction models for the practices installed and the goals outlined in the LWRMP we are meeting our objectives with the funds provided by this program. With the Winnebago System fishery recently valued at \$218 million annually, every pound of phosphorus and ton of sediment kept out of the system is another step towards effective water quality improvement.
12. **Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community?** No.
13. **What are your ideas for finding efficiencies in your Department (i.e. reducing duplication of services, better use of technology, reducing waste of resources, opportunities for partnering, opportunities for combining programs, personnel, functions etc, time-saving ideas, identifying 'sacred cows' etc.)? (Note – this question will not be scored).**
 - 1) We will be upgrading our survey equipment data collector and department computers to allow for more efficient, single person data collection in the field and data transfer/usage in the office. Collected data points can be downloaded directly into the Auto CAD (Computer Aided Design) program to expedite the design and drainage analysis process.
 - 2) Increase the use of GIS (Geographical Information System) to store data, providing faster and more efficient retrieval and sorting of needed information.

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DEPARTMENT: Land and Water Conservation Department

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT: To provide competent, professional services in the planning, design, and implementation of programs and projects that protect, restore, and sustain the natural resources of Winnebago County.

PROGRAM: Resource Plan Reviews (RPR)

1. **Describe the program, its purpose and goals.** Review storm water management, surface drainage, and erosion control plans related to residential and agricultural land development projects and issue erosion control and livestock waste management permits and conduct onsite inspections of installed practices. These services are provided in accordance with County Livestock Waste Management ordinance and State mandated Stormwater / Erosion Control ordinance. Provide State mandated Stormwater compliance permit and storm water credit service for all required county owned properties. Reduce urban and rural construction site erosion to minimize sediment and phosphorus loading to the Winnebago system and protect surface water and groundwater from livestock waste contamination.
2. **Who is the program intended to serve?** Landowners within the unincorporated areas of Winnebago County. County departments and properties required by NR216 to operate under a WPDES Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System Permit (MS4). **How many are served?** Any landowner meeting the ordinance requirements for permitting. Typically 90 to 100 EC permits and 15-20 LWM permits are issued annually. Currently the LWCD is doing the MS4 permit requirement work for the County Facilities and Highway Departments. We are also calculating all eligible stormwater credits within the County to reduce the stormwater utility fees we are currently being charged by the City of Oshkosh.
3. **Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations?** Definitely.
4. **Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department? Yes. If so, how?** This program directly supports LWCD's Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) and Design & Construction Management (DCM) Programs by identifying and addressing rural and urban construction site erosion concerns, stormwater management issues and potential surface water and groundwater contamination from livestock waste. This program supports the water quality protection component of the two County ordinances previously described; one of which is also administered by P & Z. (SECO)
5. **How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship?** LWCD has the technical expertise to do the MS4 permit for the Facilities and Highway Departments. This eliminates multiple departments trying to educate themselves and complete MS4 permit requirements. Likewise, LWCD has the expertise to gather the needed information and calculate stormwater utility credits on properties operated by multiple departments to create an efficient and centralized data base for current and future projects.
6. **How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented?** Our best method of tracking this program is onsite inspection of the properties involved with the permitting. If required EC practices and setbacks are adhered to during the construction process we know our program is effective. Recent interest with EC Workshops and the excellent attendance shown

by excavators and contractors, coupled with improved EC practice installations on the job site indicate we are definitely be effective with this program.

7. **Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program?** No. Many of the training and onsite workshops, along with educational materials were funded by grants acquired by LWCD specifically for stormwater/erosion control education and are available only to government agencies. This program is driven mainly by the need to administer County ordinances and to assist permitted individuals with their compliance requirements.
8. **State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all programs in your department and briefly explain.** This program ranks #3 out of 5 programs. This program deals mainly with developing areas and the associated pollutant loading. Though we realize its importance, It is by sheer dynamics not as large of an area or concern, at this time, as our overall rural landscape and streambank/shoreland areas.
9. **Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community? No. Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers (i.e. private entities, other County departments, other governmental units)?** This program is specific to LWCD and private firms could be hired to do compliance work for MS4, but again their costs would be prohibitive. Again, this is a State mandated and County ordinance driven program.
10. **If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)?** From a resource/water quality liability standpoint the risk would be substantial. From a legal aspect, both the Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance and the MS4 permit requirements are mandated by WDNR NR216. Failure to comply is a violation of State Law.
11. **What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)** In the last few years, because of multiple training workshops and the acquisition of grants to cover the costs of constituent training and employee Erosion Control Inspector certification it has been and continues to be very effective. In addition, permit fees provide a revenue source to offset some of the costs of the program and help reduce levy requirements.
12. **Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community?** No. It is ordinance compliance driven.
13. **What are your ideas for finding efficiencies in your Department (i.e. reducing duplication of services, better use of technology, reducing waste of resources, opportunities for partnering, opportunities for combining programs, personnel, functions etc, time-saving ideas, identifying 'sacred cows' etc.)? (Note – this question will not be scored).** LWCD will take responsibility for the Erosion Control Permit inspections for all new single and two-family homes within the counties required townships. To create a more seamless inspection program we are in the process of creating a laptop version inspection form that can be accessed from the field and downloaded back into the county system. This will expedite the overall process These inspections will provide an additional revenue source, allow better tracking of erosion control practice installation within the county, increase communication with other departments and reduce departmental levy requirements.

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DEPARTMENT: Land and Water Conservation Department

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT: To provide competent, professional services in the planning, design, and implementation of programs and projects that protect, restore, and sustain the natural resources of Winnebago County.

PROGRAM: Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

1. **Describe the program, its purpose and goals.** Administration, landowner certification, proper zoning confirmation and compliance monitoring with the Winnebago County Soil Conservation Standards for eligibility in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program.
2. **Who is the program intended to serve?** The program serves any landowner within the seven townships that have exclusive agricultural zoning meeting the eligibility requirements. **How many are served?** Annually 150 to 170 landowners.
3. **Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations?** The value of the FPP as a tax credit program is somewhat questionable. Also the county board has not supported P&Z in their effort to uphold A-1 zoning. However, from a water quality standpoint it has real merit. Landowners in the program are required to follow the Winnebago County Conservation Standards to reduce soil erosion; it is here that we realize our water quality benefit. In addition, those towns that do uphold their A -1 zoning will slow development and reduce stormwater issues.
4. **Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department?** Yes. **If so, how?** This program directly supports LWCD's Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) and Design & Construction Management (DCM) Programs by identifying and addressing agricultural erosion concerns and assisting in the implementation of the Agricultural Performance Standards.
5. **How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship?** Each year participants are required to go through a certification process that allows us to visit with them one on one regarding rotations, operational changes and observed erosion problems that might be improved by the installation of BMPs. In addition we confirm correct parcel zoning.
6. **How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented?** This is a State mandated program that requires field monitoring annually to determine compliance with the Conservation Standards. This process allows us to measure the compliance on each farm and address any concerns before the need for non-compliance enforcement. To date there have been very few non-compliance notices issued which indicates the Conservation Compliance portion of the FPP is effective.
7. **Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program?** No. It is a State mandated program with Specific County Conservation Standards. To employ a private firm to do this would be very cost prohibitive.

8. **State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all programs in your department and briefly explain.** This program ranks 4th out of 5 programs. This program is currently in a state of flux within the overall State Working Lands Initiative. Realizing it does give us annual one on one contact with the landowners, and does support the other programs within the department, it is not a primary component of the departments overall scope of duties.
9. **Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community? No. Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers (i.e. private entities, other County departments, other governmental units)?** No. LWCD is statutorily committed to the Conservation Compliance, and zoning confirmation portion of this program. (Chapter 91 & 92, Wis. State Statutes)
10. **If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)?** At this time we are required to administer the program. Pay backs, State funding cuts and State Law violations would be the main impacts to the county.
11. **What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)** In 2006, participants in Winnebago County received \$98,000 in tax credits. (150 people averaging \$654.00 each) Many of the recipients are older and/or operate or rent out mature farming operations. They do rely on the tax credit. These tax credit dollars are channeled back into the county economy. From a water quality improvement standpoint the county gets a good return on investment from this program.
12. **Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community?** No.
13. **What are your ideas for finding efficiencies in your Department (i.e. reducing duplication of services, better use of technology, reducing waste of resources, opportunities for partnering, opportunities for combining programs, personnel, functions etc, time-saving ideas, identifying 'sacred cows' etc.)? (Note – this question will not be scored).**

This program has been streamlined to require minimal effort to achieve compliance. We may consider laptop-monitoring capabilities should the State continue to support the FPP. This program is a direct conduit to implementing the Agricultural Performance Standards and will streamline getting the participants partially or totally compliant.

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PROGRAM: Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP)

- 1. Describe the program, its purpose and goals.** Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP)- Administration, Financial Accounting, Policy Control and Compliance Review and Appeal Process oversight. The WDACP allows eligible landowners to be compensated at fair market value for losses incurred on their crops due to wildlife. Also included is the Deer Donation Program administration.
- 2. Who is the program intended to serve? Any eligible landowners and needy families in Winnebago County. How many are served?** Participation varies year to year, but typically between 30 to 50 landowners enroll for compensation. Through the Deer Donation Program in 2006, 132 deer were processed yielding 5000 pounds of ground venison for food pantries on our region.
- 3. Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations?** Certainly. Landowners/producers should be compensated in some manner for wildlife damage. As more and more homes are constructed, there is less and less farmland to sustain wildlife populations, thus damage in certain areas has increased devastating producer's crops.
- 4. Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department? No. This program was mandated on LWCDs throughout the State many years ago. It has no connection to water quality improvement. If so, how?**
- 5. How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship?** We do work very closely with USDA Wildlife Services and WDNR for in field work and costs reimbursement, helping us to build a very strong relationship that leads to partnering on the installation of water quality improvement practices.
- 6. How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented?** Our role is to provide the administrative vehicle for landowners to participate. Our committee sets the prices and cutoff dates to assure the landowners get reimbursed fairly. WDNR and USDA contact interested landowners and implement the program at the farm. When all landowners that fulfill the requirements of the program are paid we have effective implementation. To my knowledge, only one landowner has not been paid in Winnebago County and that was due to program noncompliance.
- 7. Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program? Yes, and we do subcontract those portions we're allowed too.**
- 8. State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all programs in your department and briefly explain.** This program ranks 5th out of 5. It is a small program that can take more time than we like, but our time and costs are reimbursed by WDNR 100%. It is mandated by the state for us to administer. We do it as a service to the producers of Winnebago County that experience crop losses due to wildlife. It simply has no impact on water quality improvement.

9. **Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community? No. Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers (i.e. private entities, other County departments, other governmental units)? No.**
10. **If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)?** Damaged landowners would not be compensated. The county would be in violation of State Law.
11. **What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)** For the producers in the program it has a significant positive economic impact. For the LWCD there is the time and paperwork, for which we are reimbursed.
12. **Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community? No.**
13. **What are your ideas for finding efficiencies in your Department (i.e. reducing duplication of services, better use of technology, reducing waste of resources, opportunities for partnering, opportunities for combining programs, personnel, functions etc, time-saving ideas, identifying 'sacred cows' etc.)? (Note – this question will not be scored).**
- 1) Work with WDNR and USDA to expedite the reimbursement process so our revenue can be recorded in the correct budget year, reducing the additional administration for LWCD and the Finance Dept.
 - 2) Work with State leadership to streamline the program for landowners and field staff reducing the chance for error and the need for endless appeals.