

**Extension/Land Conservation Committee**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 8:30 A.M.**

**Barron County Government Center**

**Room 2151**

335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgement of Public Posting Requirements
3. Public comment
4. Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 2/6/24
  - Edit List
  - Announcements –
5. 2023 Work Plan with Accomplishments – discussion item
6. 2024 Work Plan – discussion item
7. 5 Year Plan Questions – discussion item
8. Groundwater Presentation – discussion item
9. Staff Reports – NRCS, FSA, SWCD, and UWEX (10 minutes) information only
  - Executive Committee Report
  - Fair Board Report
10. Set date for the next meeting – May 7, 2024
11. Adjourn

**\*\*\*If you cannot make the meeting, PLEASE call the SWCD at 715-537-6315.**

(All times are estimated)

**ADA Statement for Agenda**

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715-537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.

cc: Cook, Gores, Langman, Kusilek, Fowler, G. Nelson, Huth, County Clerk, County Administrator, Webmaster, Public postings

## EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Room 2151

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Members present: Gary Nelson, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman and Audrey Kusilek. Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher, Ryan Sterry, Lori Baltrusis, Bronson Thalacker, Patrick Richter, Dave Gifford (8:33), Justin Everson and Kim Collins.

Absent: Kirsten Huth.

Cook called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and Collins confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment.

**Motion: (Nelson/Kusilek)** to approve the agenda; carried. **Motion: (Gores/Langman)** to approve the minutes of October 3, 2023 meeting; carried. Questions on edit lists were answered; no announcements.

Item #5. Cook discussed the appointment of a Vice Chair to fill the remainder of McRoberts term. **Motion: (Nelson/Langman)** to appoint Jim Gores as Vice Chair for the remainder of the term; carried.

Item #6. Cody Knoop presented a recap of 2023 wildlife damage and presented corn pricing information. After committee discussion, **motion: (Kusilek/Gores)** to set the price at \$5/bushel; carried. Knoop will complete the claims with this information and present them for approval after the remaining agenda items are dealt with.

Item #7. Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP): 5 Year Review – Gruetzmacher gave an overview of SWCD accomplishments and requested committee input at the March meeting.

Item #8. Staff Reports –

NRCS – Richter presented information on the EQIP and Conservation Stewardship Program sign ups, discussing the cooperation between NRCS and SWCD staff to assist landowners and producers.

FSA – N/A

SWCD – See Item #7

UWEX – Baltrusis discussed staff changes in the Foodwise Program and announced the department's move to Rice Lake. Ryan Sterry gave an overview of the dairy programs in the area.

Executive Committee – N/A

Fair Board – N/A

Item #6. cont. – Knoop presented two (2) Wildlife Damage claims for approval. **Motion: (Kusilek/Gores)** to approve the claims as presented; carried.

The next meeting is set for March 5, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Future agenda items: *LWRMP: 5 Year Review*

**Motion: (Nelson/Langman)** to adjourn; meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Russell-Collins  
Administrative Secretary, Land Services

*Minutes are not official until approved by the Extension/LCC Committee at the next meeting.*

**COUNTY OF BARRON**

Payment Request Edit  
On-Line Vouchers  
LAND SERVICES DEPT

Vendor No/Name	Line#	voucher#	Account Desc	Date	Description	Amount
313815 THE MASTER'S TOUCH LLC	1	C0087339	OFFICE SUPPLIES	02/15/24	RPL-TAX BILLS	1,932.15
133345 WLIA	1	C0087340	ASSOCIATION/MEMBERSHIP DUES	02/15/24	RPL-UDELHOFEN/ANNUAL DUES	65.00
323853 TURNING POINT SYSTEMS GROUP	1	C0087341	NEW EQUIPMENT	02/15/24	LIO-SOFTWARE, EQUIP, MAINT	3,050.00
323853 TURNING POINT SYSTEMS GROUP	2	C0087341	ASSIGNED RES - 2023 STRATEGIC IN	02/15/24	LIO-SOFTWARE, EQUIP, MAINT	2,190.00
11525 A & T INDUSTRIES	1	C0087342	EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL	02/15/24	SWCD-EDUCATIONAL TROPHYS	99.00
426 BELL PRESS INC	1	C0087343	EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL	02/15/24	SWCD-CERTIFICATE PAPER/POSTER C	69.00
15954 WEST CENTRAL LAND & WATER CONS AS	1	C0087344	EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL	02/15/24	SWCD-WEST CENTRAL MTG/CONTEST R	60.00
274259 APG MEDIA OF WISCONSIN LLC	1	C0087345	PUBLICATIONS	02/15/24	ZA-VAR PUBLIC NOTICES	422.32
744 CHETEK ALERT INC	1	C0087346	PUBLICATIONS	02/15/24	ZA-ABBOTT PUB NOTICE	62.51
289493 BUREAU OF CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISE	1	C0087347	ADDRESS SIGNING	02/15/24	ZA-RURAL ADDRESS FEES	90.00
3565 SAFETY AND BUILDINGS DIVISION	1	C0087348	DUE TO STATE - SANITATION FEES	02/15/24	ZA-STATE SAN FEES/JAN 2024	100.00
<b>Totals:</b>						<b>8,139.98</b>

**MANUAL VOUCHERS/JOURNAL ENTRIES**

DEPT	NAME	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
LS	BC HIGHWAY DEPT	220-12-53400-332-000	FUEL 11/25 - 12/31/23	\$459.35
1/25/2024 SWCD	BROWN COUNTY	100-12-56010-325-000	CAFO REG/EVERSON, GRITZ	\$92.00
1/25/2024 LIO	AYRES ASSOCIATES	MULTIPLE	TEN MILE DAM, LIDAR MAINT	\$3,019.00

MANUAL VOUCHERS TOTAL: \$3,570.35

GRAND TOTAL: \$11,710.33

Dept Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Admin Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Land Services Total:	\$2,548.50
Land Information Total:	\$8,259.00
<b>Soil &amp; Water Conservation Total:</b>	<b>\$228.00</b>
Zoning Administration Total:	\$674.83

**COUNTY OF BARRON**

Payment Request Edit

On-Line Vouchers

FPEDT01G

LAND SERVICES DEPT

Vendor No/Name	Line#	voucher#	Account Desc	Date	Description	Amount
317560 INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LLC	1	C0087688	OFFICE SUPPLIES	03/21/24	LS-SWCD REC'D STAMP/THALACKER	77.55
59463 HAYES INSTRUMENT COMPANY	1	C0087689	LAND INFORMATION - SURVEY EQUIP	03/21/24	LIO-PAINT FOR SURVEYOR & FLIGHT	602.18
59463 HAYES INSTRUMENT COMPANY	2	C0087689	FIELD SUPPLIES	03/21/24	LIO-PAINT FOR SURVEYOR & FLIGHT	75.27
6696 NOBLE'S TIRE SERVICE INC	1	C0087690	REPAIR & EXPENSE	03/21/24	SWCD-TIRES/UTILITY TRAILER	303.32
10383 WI DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	1	C0087691	DUE TO STATE - MINING PERMIT FEE	03/21/24	SWCD-STATE NRI35 ANNUAL FEES	7,005.00
744 CHETEK ALERT INC	1	C0087692	PUBLICATIONS	03/21/24	ZA-THEESFELDMPUBLIC NOTICE	67.07
289493 BUREAU OF CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISE	1	C0087693	ADDRESS SIGNING	03/21/24	ZA-RURAL ADDRESS SIGNS	196.00
3565 DSPS FISCAL	1	C0087694	DUE TO STATE - SANITATION FEES	03/21/24	ZA-STATE SAN FEES/FEB '24	700.00
<b>Totals:</b>						<b>9,026.39</b>

**MANUAL VOUCHERS/JOURNAL ENTRIES**

DEPT	NAME	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
LS	BC HIGHWAY DEPT	220-12-53400-332-000	FUEL 01/01 - 02/02/24	\$283.05
LS	BC HIGHWAY DEPT	220-12-53400-332-000	FUEL 02/03 - 03/01/24	\$230.05
ZA	WCCA	100-12-56010-325-000	SPRING CONF/GIFF&BLACK	\$400.00

MANUAL VOUCHERS TOTAL: \$913.10

GRAND TOTAL: \$9,939.49

Dept Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Admin Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Land Services Total:	\$990.65
Land Information Total:	\$677.45
Soil & Water Conservation Total:	\$7,308.32
Zoning Administration Total:	\$963.07

BARRON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 1: Planned activities and performance measures by category

CATEGORY (goal and objective from LWRMP 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)	2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
<i>CROPLAND</i>			
<b>Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management</b>	<p>*Using Barron County funds (\$20,000), cost share 800 acres of cover crops, targeting individuals with limited experience and new techniques</p> <p>*Administer the Farmland Preservation Program, conducting 50 Status Reviews on current participants Issue Conservation Compliance Certificates (FPP and NR151) for new locations.</p> <p>*For Nutrient Management Planning, using the SEG funds for 1000 acres of new plans.</p> <p>*Using the MDV program, implement a Headland &amp; Buffer planting program</p> <p>*Work one on one and in small groups of farmers to assist them in writing their own nutrient management plans.</p> <p>*We will use SNAP Plus to run the Soil Erosion Transect Survey.</p> <p>*Install 6,000 feet (6 acres) of grassed waterway</p>	<p>Acres of Cover Crop cost shared Goal of 800</p> <p>Number of Status Reviews completed Goal of 50</p> <p>Number of Certificates of Compliance issued Goal of 15 Acres on these farms</p> <p>Nutrient Management Planning acres cost shared Goal of 1000ac</p> <p>Acres of headland and buffer plantings – Goal of 50 acres</p> <p>Goal of 45 individual training sessions Nutrient Management Planning acres assisted – Goal of 10,000 ac</p> <p>Feet and Acres of Grassed Waterways installed. Goal of 6 acres</p>	<p>756 acres cost shared</p> <p>60 inspections done for a combination of FPP and NR 151 compliance.</p> <p>1 new COC issued - 128 acres 24 updated COC - 10,377 acres</p> <p>We did not have persons interested in the SEG funds. Transferred them to another County.</p> <p>42 acres of headlands and buffers installed</p> <p>50 sessions for a total of 12,000 acres of planning assistance</p> <p>Conducted the survey</p> <p>6400' installed 6 acres in area</p>

**BARRON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

	*Demonstration Farm	Soil Health Tests  In field demonstration days      Goal of 2 Soil Health Workshop with UW      Goal of 1	Performed Haney test and traditional tests on 1 acre grid 1 field day Partnered with UW Soils on a workshop at our Demo Plot 20 participants
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**LIVESTOCK**

<b>Livestock</b>	Work with 3 landowners to correct livestock runoff prohibitions using Clean Water Diversions, fencing and roof runoff outlets.  Review waste storage designs for permitting under Barron County Manure Storage Ordinance.  Inspections of existing manure storage facilities (5) Inspections of barnyard areas for compliance with NR151  Manure storage facility closures	Number of projects completed – Goal of 3 Pounds of P reduced using BARNY  Number of reviews  Number of inspections – Goal of 5 Number of inspections – Goal of 5  Number of closures – Goal of 12	1 completed Site was a calf hutch location that doesn't work with BARNY. It was a significant soil loss area 3  2 3  15 closed
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**WATER QUALITY**

<b>Water quality/quantity</b> (other than activities already listed in other categories)	Groundwater Quality Study – Year 2 of 2	Number of samples – Goal of 450  Host a groundwater education meeting	350 samples collected in 2023 total samples of 723 Hosted meeting March 20, 2024 Presented to 2 other groups as well
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**FORESTRY**

<b>Forestry</b>	None		
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BARRON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

*INVASIVE*

<b>Invasive species</b>	Continue program of cutting and spraying, purple loosestrife, Japanese Knotweed, garlic mustard, and other invasive species, focusing on early infestations.	Number of control efforts Sites treated	5 sites treated for Japanese knotweed. Coordinated buckthorn control at UW campus
	Use the GLEDN App for mapping of sites in the county.	Sites recorded by staff	2
	Raising bio-control beetles for Purple Loosestrife and assisting Lake Associations in their efforts	Release sites	Released beetles at 2 sites
	Inspect 40 boat landings for signage	Number of landings inspected	Inventoried 8 sites
	Display at the County Fair		5 days of interacting with the public at our Conservation Building

*WILDLIFE*

<b>Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat</b> (other than forestry or invasive species)	Conduct annual tree sale	Number of trees sold - Goal of 19,000 trees	17,500 trees sold
	Rental of County Tree Planters	Number of trees planted	37,000 trees planted

*URBAN*

<b>Urban issues</b>	None		
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*WATERSHED*

BARRON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

<b>Watershed strategies</b>	Participate in Red Cedar Basin Partnership	6 meetings annually	Continued to participate in the Red Cedar Partnership. This group oversees the TMDL
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*OTHER*

<b>Other</b>	Review of Reclamation Plans	80 annual reviews	80 reviews
	Number of Reclamation Plan Reviews:	Plan amendments goal of 3	2 plan amendments
	Issue Reclamation Permits:		
	Monitor active mining operations site visits: Annual Survey of Active mining areas:	100 site visits	100 site visits

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

Permits and Ordinances	Plans/application reviews anticipated	Permits issued
Feedlot permits	NA	
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	3	3
Manure storage closure	5	15
Livestock facility siting	0	0
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	2	2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	NA	
Shoreland zoning	NA	
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	NA	
Other		



BARRON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Table 3: Planned inspections

Inspections	Number of inspections planned
Total Farm Inspections	60
For FPP	60
For NR 151	60
Animal waste ordinance	10
Livestock facility siting	2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	NA
Nonmetallic mining	100

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

Activity	Number
Tours	1
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	45
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade tour Poster Contest Speaking Contest
Newsletters	
Social media posts	25
News release/story	5

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

Staff/Support	Hours	Costs
County Conservationist/Technician (95%)	1976	
Conservation Planner	2080	
Conservation Specialist	2080	
Administrative Assistant (50%)	1040	
Director – Department Head (33.3%)	684.4	Total Staff \$403,241.29
<b>Cost Sharing</b> (can be combined)		
DATCP SWRM Bonding	N/A	\$56,000 + \$37,954.57 (2022 carryover)
DATCP SEG for NMP	N/A	\$10,000
MDV	N/A	\$31,190
Barron County Conservation Funds		\$20,000

**BARRON 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"> <li><i>Cropland</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>Cropland, soil health and/or nutrient management</b></p>	<p>*Using Barron County funds (\$20,000), cost share 800 acres of cover crops, targeting individuals with limited experience and new techniques</p> <p>*Administer the Farmland Preservation Program, conducting 50 Status Reviews on current participants Issue Conservation Compliance Certificates (FPP and NR151) for new locations.</p> <p>*For Nutrient Management Planning, using the SEG funds for 250 acres of new plans.</p> <p>*Using the MDV program, implement a Headland &amp; Buffer planting program</p> <p>*Work one on one and in small groups of farmers to assist them in writing their own nutrient management plans.</p> <p>*We will use SNAP Plus to run the Soil Erosion Transect Survey.</p> <p>*Install 12,000 feet (12 acres) of grassed waterway</p> <p>*Demonstration Farm</p>	<p>Acres of Cover Crop cost shared Goal of 800</p> <p>Number of Status Reviews completed Goal of 60 -Acres on these farms</p> <p>Number of Certificates of Compliance issued Goal of 5 new Acres on these farms</p> <p>Nutrient Management Planning acres cost shared Goal of 250 ac</p> <p>Acres of headland and buffer plantings – Goal of 35 acres</p> <p>Goal of 45 individual training sessions Nutrient Management Planning acres assisted – Goal of 10,000 ac</p> <p>Feet and Acres of Grassed Waterways installed. Goal of 12 acres</p> <p>Soil Health Tests In field demonstration days Goal of 2</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Livestock</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>Livestock</b></p>	<p>Work with 3 landowners to correct livestock runoff prohibitions using Clean Water Diversions, fencing and roof runoff outlets.</p> <p>Review waste storage designs for permitting under the Barron County Manure Storage Ordinance.</p>	<p>Number of projects completed – Goal of 3</p> <p>Pounds of P reduced using BARNY</p> <p>Number of reviews</p>

**BARRON COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Water quality</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Water quality/quantity</b> (other than activities already listed in other categories)	Inspections of existing manure storage facilities (5) Inspections of barnyard areas for compliance with NR151  Manure storage facility closures  Perform 3 lake wide photo surveys of shorelines  Develop 10 lakeshore mitigation plans  Evaluate 10 Barron County owned lakeshore properties including boat landings for runoff concerns.  Coordinate with UWSP on final Groundwater Study analysis.	Number of inspections – Goal of 5 Number of inspections – Goal of 5  Number of closures – Goal of 10  Number of surveys  Number of plans  Number of Evaluations  Host 2 informational sessions and distribute to public.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Forestry</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Forestry</b>	NA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Invasive</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Invasive species</b>	Continue program of cutting and spraying, purple loosestrife, Japanese Knotweed, garlic mustard, and other invasive species, focusing on early infestations. Use the GLEDN App for mapping of sites in the county. Raising bio-control beetles for Purple Loosestrife and assisting Lake Associations in their efforts Inspect 40 boat landings for signage Display at the County Fair Clean Boats Clean Waters training Citizen Lake Monitoring Network training	Number of control efforts Sites treated  Sites recorded by staff  Release sites  Number of landings inspected  One training – 10 participants One training - 10 participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Wildlife</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Wildlife-Wetlands-Habitat</b> (other than forestry or invasive species)	Conduct annual tree sale  Rental of County Tree Planters	Number of trees sold - Goal of 19,000 trees  Number of trees planted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Urban</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Urban issues</b>	None	

**BARRON COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

- *Watershed*

<b>Watershed strategies</b>	Participate in the Red Cedar Basin Partnership	6 meetings annually
	Staples Lake District Watershed project	Work with 2 landowners to correct runoff concerns.

- *Other*

<b>Other</b>	Review of Non-metallic Mining Reclamation Plans:	80 annual reviews
	Number of Reclamation Plan Reviews:	Plan amendments goal of 3
	Issue Reclamation Permits:	
	Monitor active mining operations site visits:	
	Annual Survey of Active mining areas:	100 site visits

Table 2: Planned activity related to permits and ordinances

<b>Permits and Ordinances</b>	<b>Plans/application reviews anticipated</b>	<b>Permits anticipated to be issued</b>
Feedlot permits	NA	
Manure storage construction and transfer systems	1	
Manure storage closure	8	10
Livestock facility siting	1	1
Nonmetallic/frac sand mining	2	2
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	NA	
Shoreland zoning	NA	
Wetlands and waterways (Ch. 30)	NA	
Other		

**BARRON COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES**

Table 3: Planned inspections

<b>Inspections</b>	<b>Number of inspections planned</b>
Total Farm Inspections	60
For FPP	60
For NR 151	60
Animal waste ordinance	10
Livestock facility siting	1
Stormwater and construction site erosion control	NA
Nonmetallic mining	100

Table 4: Planned outreach and education activities

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number</b>
Tours	0
Field days	2
Trainings/workshops	45
School-age programs (camps, field days, classroom)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Tour Poster Contest Speaking Contest
Newsletters	0
Social media posts	25
News release/story	5

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

<b>Staff/Support</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Costs</b>
County Conservationist/Technician (95%)	1976	
Conservation Planner	2080	
Conservation Specialist	2080	
Lakeshore Specialist	1200	
Administrative Assistant (50%)	1040	
Director – Department Head (33.3%)	684.4	Total combined \$482,271.36
<b>Cost Sharing</b> (can be combined)		
DATCP SWRM Bonding	N/A	\$48,000 + 5285 carryover
DATCP SEG for NMP	N/A	\$10,000
MDV	N/A	\$26,250
Barron County Conservation Funds		\$20,000
USDA EQIP		Estimated \$300,000

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM** \_\_\_\_\_ **State of Wisconsin**

**DATE:** March 20, 2024

**TO:** Land and Water Conservation Board Members and Advisors

**FROM:** Lisa K. Trumble, DATCP *Lisa K. Trumble*  
Resource Management Section,  
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

**SUBJECT:** Five Year Review of the *Barron County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*

**Recommended Action:** This is an action item. The LWCB should determine whether the county has met the LWCB's criteria for a five-year review of a LWRM plan approved for ten years. If the LWCB makes a formal determination that the county has failed to meet these criteria, DATCP will automatically modify its order to terminate approval of the county's plan effective December of this year.

**Summary:** The Barron County land and water resource management plan has been approved through December 31, 2029, contingent on a five-year review conducted prior to December 31, 2024. In advance of the five-year review, Barron County has completed a DATCP approved form designed to implement the LWCB's reference document dated October 27, 2021, and the criteria for conducting a five-year review. The county has provided written answers to four questions regarding past and future implementation, has provided the required work planning documents, and has appropriately involved the Land Conservation Committee.

**Materials Provided:**

- Completed Five Year Review Form
- 2023 Annual Workplan with Accomplishments
- 2024 Annual Workplan

**Presenter:** Tyler Gruetzmacher, County Conservationist, Barron County SWCD  
Randall Cook, Land Conservation Committee Chair



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

**County: Barron**

**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.**

Farmland Preservation Program: Since Jan. 1, 2020, we have gained 24 new FPP participants adding a total of 3,973 acres. Staff continues to monitor the annual compliance of all 193 participants, equaling a total of 45,788 acres. Utilization of nutrient management plans for cost savings/increased yields and the importance of owner/operator communication have recently been emphasized in order to foster participation and understanding of program goals.

The addition of a Lakes and Invasive Species Specialist position was identified as a goal in the plan. In 2023 the Barron County Board of Supervisors voted to include the position in the 2024 budget. Recruitment for the position will begin in spring 2024.

Barron County has partnered with the USDA-NRCS for closure of animal waste storage facilities. Construction of earthen manure storage facilities was quite popular (210 installed) from the mid 1970s to 1983 during an era of comparatively lax engineering standards. With the attrition in the dairy industry, the number of idle manure storage facilities on the landscape would far exceed our DATCP SWRM annual funding to properly close them. Partnering with NRCS, where the county provides the outreach and technical support and NRCS the funding, has resulted in the closure of a total of 156 facilities to date with 37 since 2020 and 12 pending for 2024.

Groundwater study: Barron County contracted with the Groundwater Center at UWSP to conduct a drinking water study in 2022 and 2023. Approximately 800 samples were taken by citizens and submitted for testing. Chippewa and Dunn Counties also have done testing through UWSP which allowed for integration of the studies into a regional compilation. Our collective data was presented at the Red Cedar Basin Conference and a public meeting in Barron on March 14, 2024.

Demonstration Farm Creation: Barron County owns a 12-acre parcel of cropland, and it became available for a demonstration site in 2021. It is located on sandy outwash soils in the center of

the county and has been converted to a 3 crop no-till rotation. Staff will track the changes in a variety of soil health parameters which will be shared with the farming community.

Multi-Discharge Variance: Our department has been coordinating this with local WWTPs for 3 years, using the funds to plant grass headlands. Serious erosion on headlands has been identified and targeted for conservation practices, in many cases when the rest of the field is in good condition. One goal or objective of the program is to reduce phosphorus runoff. Over the last 3 years approximately 1100 lbs of phosphorus reductions have been calculated across the county from the headlands that have been established to grass so far.

Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program: The reclamation of nonmetallic mine sites helps reduce nonpoint pollution of surface water, groundwater, and wetlands. Over the past 4 years Barron County has evaluated 369 acres of partially reclaimed mine sites and 142 acres of final reclaimed sites. All reclamation plans and activities are required to meet the uniform standards of NR135 Wisconsin Administrative Code and the Barron County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance. These uniform standards are consistent with the goals and objectives described in the Barron County Land & Water Resource Management Plan.

- 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.**

Areas of sandy outwash soils with the potential to impact groundwater have not yet been addressed. County staff are planning to use results from the recent groundwater study to expand our work in this area, specifically Nutrient Management Planning. Traditionally, our department has not had much contact with the landowners in these areas due to minimal livestock operations and limited slope/HEL; these are mainly flat croplands without erosion, barnyard, or manure storage issues. Targeted Nutrient Management Planning to reduce infiltration to groundwater can be initiated with the new groundwater data. Also related to the outwash plain are large internally drained areas that have increased potential for leaching of nutrients.

- 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.**

Farmland Preservation Program planned acreage continues to increase, providing planning coverage and ensuring compliance with standards. Staff is always available to explain the benefits of planning and attends numerous public events for outreach as well as education. The increased tax credit is expected to increase the interest in the program.

NRCS funds used for storage closure: Letters were sent to landowners with idle manure storage facilities describing the County Ordinance requirements and the technical process of closure, encouraging them to sign up with the NRCS for EQIP cost incentives. We have been using this process since 2012, and it has become more and more popular. We have closed 37 facilities since 2020, 35 with EQIP funds. In total, we have closed 156. The EQIP cost incentive is



generally greater than the 70% DATCP rate, and the funding pool is larger than the State of Wisconsin's. We have 12 facilities pending for closure in 2024 in this program.

Barron County has provided \$20,000 for 20+ years to encourage implementation of conservation practices. Originally these funds were used as incentive for no-till planting. More recently, funding has been utilized for cover crops. The county offers simple, one year agreements to plant cover crops on up to 40 acres at \$25/acre, and these have worked well to entice operators and owners to try cover crops.

Inventories of barnyard areas and manure storage facilities have been completed, and barnyard feeding areas have been delineated utilizing orthophotography, which is updated every 3 years with new photos being taken this spring. The number and type of cattle is estimated, and this information is input into BARNY to determine the potential for runoff. High runoff areas are then targeted for conservation practice outreach. The conversion from dairy to beef has resulted in the creation of feeding areas with runoff concerns.

**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 results of the groundwater study will be coming out this year. This will be used for informational campaigns outlining the importance of Nutrient Management Planning.

The addition of a Lakes and Invasive Species position will allow for additional efforts in these areas. A variety of potential conservation benefits will be explored as new programs and ideas evolve beyond an initial position description. This staff member will not only bring focus to these areas but also work to identify any additional objectives that may not currently be planned.

The industrial sand mining work has changed direction from new reclamation plan applications and review process to overseeing reclamation activities on existing permitted sites. It is anticipated that as more reclamation of these sites occurs it will be important to make sure the reclamation work is consistent with the approved reclamation plan and permit. It is further anticipated that more work will be done to review modifications to existing reclamation plans and permits.

### **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:  Date: 3-21-2024  
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:  
[Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov](mailto:Lisa.Trumble@wi.gov)