

**Extension/Land Conservation Committee**  
**Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 10:30 A.M.**

**Room 2151**

335 E. Monroe Ave., Barron, WI

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgement of Public Posting Requirements
3. Election of Officers
  - Chair
  - Vice Chair
  - Executive Committee Representative
4. Public comment
5. Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 04/07/26
  - Edit List- April and May
  - Announcements –
    - Wisconsin Land + Water LCC Training, June 10th in Hayward, registration required.
    - West Central Tour- June 24th, Clark County, registration required
6. Virtual Attendance at Committee Meetings.
7. UWSP Groundwater Center Proposal for additional groundwater work in Barron County.- discussion item
8. Certificate of Compliance- action item
  - Carol Ann Olson
9. Staff Reports – UWEX, NRCS, FSA, and SWCD (10 minutes) information only
  - Executive Committee Report
  - Fair Board Report
10. Future Agenda item: Presentation by Natasha Ward, True Wellness, City of Rice Lake.
11. Set date for the next meeting – July 7, 2026
12. 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, G. Nelson, Huth, Ellison, County Clerk, County Administrator, Webmaster, Public postings

## EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Room 2151

---

Members present: Kirsten Huth, Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman, and Audrey Kusilek. Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher, Justin Everson, Pat Brown, Dave Gifford, Jeff French, Lori Baltrusis, Matt Bolen and Becky Melton.

Cook called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and Melton confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment was received.

**Motion: (Kusilek/Gores)** to approve the agenda; carried. **Motion: (Kusilek/Gores)** to approve the minutes of February 2, 2026 meeting; carried.

**Announcements:** LCC Training in Hayward June 10<sup>th</sup> and WCA Tour- Clark County June 24<sup>th</sup>. Edit list: no questions.

Item #5, Item #6, Item #7, Item #8, Item #9 and Item #12. County Conservationist Tyler Gruetzmacher provided an overview of the 2026 SWCD Work Plans, emphasizing strategic goals within the Farmland Preservation and Headland Buffer programs. His report covered a broad spectrum of conservation initiatives, including soil nutrition, the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program, cover crop implementation, manure storage closures and public owned lakeshore evaluations.

In financial updates, Gruetzmacher detailed the state grant cycle, outlining the 2027 application process while confirming the department's receipt of \$163,876.00 SWCD state funding for 2025. Discussion then shifted to groundwater management, where Gruetzmacher reviewed Chippewa County's testing protocols and nutrient management practices. Finally, Gruetzmacher reviewed the Statewide NR151 Analysis led by the DNR, which is evaluating compliance in agricultural performance standard adoption to guide future runoff management policy.

Item #10. Pat Brown provided an update on the recent Barron County Lakes Coalition meeting, which served as a collaborative forum for lake associations, lake districts, and county representatives. The discussion focused on smaller lake struggles, volunteers and invasive species management. Additionally, Brown noted the progress of the upcoming Native Plant Sale.

Item # 11. Lake Shore Technician Pat Brown presented an overview of Wisconsin Assembly Bill 1033, which addresses the regulation of wake-enhanced boating. Brown detailed the bill's potential implications for lake health as well as its impact on regional recreation. Following a period of committee discussion on the balance between statewide standards and local protection, the committee directed that an action item be created to draft a formal resolution in support of the bill. **Motion: (Kusilek/Gores)** to approve support of county resolution for AB-1033; carried.

Item #13. Staff Reports –

UWEX – Baltrusis introduced Matt Bolen, Nutrient & Pest Management (NPM) Outreach Specialist, who provided the committee with an overview of his role and the technical support he will offer to regional producers. Following the introduction, Baltrusis presented the Quarterly Departmental Highlights, notably celebrating the successful addition of the Littlest Learners Child Care Center at the UW EC-BC Campus.

NRCS – No update

FSA – No update.

Executive Committee – French gave an update on the most recent agenda items.

Fair Board – No update.

Next meeting date: May 5, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Future agenda items:

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

**Motion: (Kusilek)** Cook declared the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.; carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Melton  
Administrative Secretary, Land Services

EDITS (APRIL AND MAY)

4/16/2026	US Dept of Agriculture	C0095473	USDA Aphis	SWCD Quarterly Wildlife Damage	\$3,461.42
4/16/2026	Laura's Lane Nursery	C0095474	Tree Purchases	SWCD 2nd half of INV	\$5,595.00
4/16/2026	PC Tree Sale Request	C0095475	Tree Sale PC Drawer	SWCD Tree Sale Program	\$250.00
5/7/2026	Hey Everything	C0095621	Supplies for Tree Program and Boat	SWCD LCD Boat, Tree Supplies, Tree Report	\$124.85
5/21/2026	Seiler Instrument	C0095799	Subscription for equipment	SW INV80682 Catalyst on Demand	\$1,000.00



WEST CENTRAL AREA  
LAND+WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



**SUMMER TOUR REGISTRATION FORM**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026**

**9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**HOSTED BY: CLARK COUNTY LCD**

Registration fee of **\$25 per person** payable to Clark County Land Conservation Department  
Payment is due by the date of the tour [June 24, 2026]  
Mail to: Clark County LCD  
517 Court St Rm 102  
Neillsville WI 54456

Please complete this registration form and email it by *June 5, 2026* to [tiffanee.tesmer@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:tiffanee.tesmer@co.clark.wi.us) Advance registration is required for this event.

Pizza buffet lunch will be provided.

**County/Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Status – Mailed or Delivering morning of tour:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Dietary Restrictions

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
We will depart from West Side Park in Loyal {Entrance to the East of W3978 State Hwy 98}  
Check in starting at 9:00 a.m.  
Load bus at 9:35 a.m.  
Depart promptly at 9:45 a.m.



2026 Summer Tour Hosted by Clark County Land Conservation Department

<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
09:00	09:35	West Side Park	Registration; Networking
09:35	09:45	Load Bus	
09:45	10:00	Travel to NigonView Farms	
10:00	11:00	NigonView Farms	Farm Diversity
11:00	11:15	Load Bus	
11:15	11:30	Travel to Marawood Recreation Area	
11:30	13:00	Marawood Recreation Area	Mine reclamation Lunch & Business Meeting
13:00	13:15	Load Bus	
13:15	13:35	Travel to Meyer Family Dairy	
13:35	14:05	Meyer Family Dairy	Waste Storage Facility
14:05	14:20	Load Bus	
14:20	14:35	Travel back to West Side Park	Thank you for attending

# 2026 LCC Training and Northwestern Area Association Meeting - Hayward

Join Wisconsin Land+Water to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the land conservation committee (LCC) and how LCCs and Land Conservation Department staff work together. New and returning supervisors are encouraged to attend. County land conservation staff are also encouraged to participate.

New LCC Handbooks will be distributed.

Following the training and lunch, the Northwestern Area Association will hold their business meeting.

Date: **Wednesday, June 10, 2026**

Start Time: **10:00 AM**

Location: **Sawyer County Courthouse, 10610 Main St, Hayward, WI 54843**

Rough Agenda:

- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM : WI Land+Water LCC Training
- 12:00 PM : Complimentary Lunch
- Northwestern Area Association Business meeting to follow lunch

# Barron County Trend Monitoring Options to continue the work from our previous study.

## Background

A Barron County 2022-2023 well water quality inventory (738 samples) showed that 10% of private wells exceeded the 10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen drinking water standard. This is greater than the statewide average of 7.3% (DATCP, 2023). Furthermore, results indicated that the Towns of Clinton, Barron, Stanley, Maple Grove, Prairie Lake, Chetek, and Dovre had mean nitrate-nitrogen concentrations greater than 5 mg/L (ppm) in their private well water. While the health standard for nitrate-nitrogen is 10 mg/L, nitrate-nitrogen concentrations above 5 mg/L in private wells indicate contamination from external sources. Elevated nitrate levels generally occur in areas of agricultural activity or areas of dense rural development (i.e. small lot sizes with septic systems, lawn fertilizers, etc.).

## Recommendations

- Focus testing efforts on townships with prior data indicating elevated nitrate levels (>5 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen).
- Track groundwater quality over time via nitrate-nitrogen and chloride testing. Nitrate and chloride tests provide valuable information on land use impacts and will help researchers identify wells where nitrate and/or chloride are increasing or decreasing.
  - Additional parameters, such as pH, conductivity, alkalinity, and hardness allow us to better understand water quality changes in relationship to factors such as weather/climate. These additional parameters also add confidence to results and provide important metrics about other water quality characteristics.
- By using historical data to focus testing efforts to selected areas instead of another county-wide study, the focus can be on higher sample counts per township.

Budget scenarios

*The following example budgets reflect the first year in a 5-year testing program and do not reflect annual salary or inflation cost increases.*

1. ~\$20,000/yr: Nitrate-nitrogen, chloride, pH, alkalinity, total hardness, conductivity
  - a. Includes general groundwater chemistry and geologic influences.
  - b. Most comprehensive, with moderate spatial coverage and informative groundwater chemistry panel.
  - c. ~29 samples/township in year one (208 total)

*Estimated costs FY27*

<b>Direct costs</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
Salary – Abby Johnson, Data Scientist, @ \$66219.00 base salary (0.03 FTE) time to support recruitment/data management/analysis	\$2,046.00	1	\$2,046.00
Fringe	\$908.00	1	\$908.00
<b>Total personnel</b>			<b>\$2,954.00</b>
<b>ANALYTICAL COSTS</b>			
HOP-BAC @ 40% discount	\$40.80	208	\$8,486.40
<b>Total analytical</b>			<b>\$8,486.40</b>
<b>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>			
Packaging and shipping to participants	\$5.50	208	\$1,144.00
Return shipping to lab	\$10.00	208	\$2,080.00
Recruitment letters, postage, and return postcards	\$1.30	208	\$270.40
<b>Total materials and supplies</b>			<b>\$3,494.40</b>
<b>Total direct costs</b>			<b>\$14,934.80</b>
<b>Indirect costs</b>			
UWSP indirect rate (~34%)	34%	1	<b>\$5,077.83</b>
<b>Total Project Cost (Direct + Indirect)</b>			<b>\$20,012.63</b>

2. ~\$20,000/yr: Nitrate-nitrogen and chloride only
  - a. Does not include general groundwater chemistry and geologic influences.
  - b. Larger spatial coverage, though less informative on overall groundwater quality.
  - c. ~35 samples/township in year one (247 total)

*Estimated costs FY27*

<b>Direct costs</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
<i>PERSONNEL</i>			
Salary – Abby Johnson, Data Scientist, @ \$66219.00 base salary (0.03 FTE) time to support recruitment/data management/analysis	\$2,046.00	1	\$2,046.00
Fringe	\$908.00	1	\$908.00
<b>Total personnel</b>			<b>\$2,954.00</b>
<i>ANALYTICAL COSTS</i>			
NO3/Cl; 40% discount	\$31.80	247	\$7,854.60
<b>Total analytical</b>			<b>\$7,854.60</b>
<i>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</i>			
Packaging and shipping to participants	\$5.50	247	\$1,358.50
Return shipping to lab	\$10.00	247	\$2,470.00
Recruitment letters, postage, and return postcards	\$1.30	247	\$321.10
<b>Total materials and supplies</b>			<b>\$4,149.60</b>
<b>Total direct costs</b>			<b>\$14,958.20</b>
<i>Indirect costs</i>			
UWSP indirect rate (~34%)	34%	1	\$5,085.79
<b>Total Project Cost (Direct + Indirect)</b>			<b>\$20,043.99</b>

3. ~\$10,000/yr: Nitrate-nitrogen, chloride, pH, alkalinity, total hardness, conductivity
  - a. Includes general groundwater chemistry and geologic influences.
  - b. Less spatial coverage, but lower cost.
  - c. ~11 samples/township in year one (80 total)

*Estimated costs FY27*

<b>Direct costs</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
Salary – Abby Johnson, Data Scientist, @ \$66219.00 base salary (0.03 FTE) time to support recruitment/data management/analysis	\$2,046.00	1	\$2,046.00
Fringe	\$908.00	1	\$908.00
<b>Total personnel</b>			<b>\$2,954.00</b>
<b>ANALYTICAL COSTS</b>			
HOP-BAC @ 40% discount	\$40.80	80	\$3,264.00
<b>Total analytical</b>			<b>\$3,264.00</b>
<b>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>			
Packaging and shipping to participants	\$5.50	80	\$440.00
Return shipping to lab	\$10.00	80	\$800.00
Recruitment letters, postage, and return postcards	\$1.30	80	\$104.00
<b>Total materials and supplies</b>			<b>\$1,344.00</b>
<b>Total direct costs</b>			<b>\$7,562.00</b>
<b>Indirect costs</b>			
UWSP indirect rate (~34%)	34%	1	<b>\$2,571.08</b>
<b>Total Project Cost (Direct + Indirect)</b>			<b>\$10,133.08</b>

## Tests

### Nitrate

Nitrate is an important test for all private well owners because 1) it provides insight into land use impacts to groundwater/private wells, and 2) nitrate at elevated levels is associated with negative health outcomes. Levels greater than 10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen should not be consumed by infants, women who are or trying to become pregnant. Everyone is encouraged to avoid long-term consumption of nitrate greater than 10 mg/L.

Nitrate is a chemical commonly found in agricultural and lawn fertilizer. It is also produced when organic rich materials such as manure, bio-solids, septic system effluent, etc. decompose. Nitrate is a very soluble form of nitrogen and can easily leach past the root zone of plants into our groundwater. Levels of nitrate in groundwater are generally less than 1 mg/L in natural or areas of little human influence. Elevated levels generally occur in areas of agricultural activity or areas of dense rural development (i.e. small lot sizes with septic systems, lawn fertilizers, etc.). Soils and geology make certain areas more prone to nitrate losses to groundwater. For these reasons, nitrate is a good test to perform if trying to understand the impacts of land use on groundwater quality as well as trends over time.

### Chloride

Like nitrate, chloride is a useful tool for understanding the impacts of land use. Major sources of chloride to groundwater include fertilizer, road salting and septic system drainfields. Potash is used to add potassium to soil. The most common form of potash is potassium chloride; the chloride is susceptible to leaching. Road salt (usually sodium chloride) helps in deicing roads but is then washed off roads into ditches or other pervious areas where it soaks into the soil and can eventually leach to groundwater. Septic system drainfields dispose of wastewater which contains chloride from human waste and water softener salt. Unlike nitrate, there are no negative health outcomes associated with chloride at levels typically found in Wisconsin's groundwater.

### Alkalinity

Alkalinity is a measure of water's ability to neutralize acid. It is generated by the dissolution of carbonate minerals common to Wisconsin. Groundwater alkalinity measurements are relatively stable from one year to the next. Testing for

alkalinity would help in understanding if a particular sampling event was influenced by rainfall or snowmelt because alkalinity should be relatively consistent under normal conditions. Also useful for verifying that sample has not been treated with reverse osmosis.

### Conductivity

Conductivity is a measure of the amount of total dissolved ions in water but does not give an indication of which minerals are present. In most uncontaminated waters, however, conductivity is about twice the total hardness value in an unsoftened water source. Changes in conductivity over time may indicate changes in overall water quality. There are no health concerns at levels of conductivity found in Wisconsin's groundwater.

### Hardness

Hardness measures the amount of calcium and magnesium in water. Hard water can cause scale deposits on fixtures, in pipes or water heaters. Water that is naturally low in hardness is often referred to as soft and can be corrosive. There are no health concerns associated with drinking hard water. Water less than 150 mg/L is considered soft while values greater than 200 mg/L are considered hard. Concentrations are expressed as mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub>. Also useful for verifying that sample has not been treated with a water softener or reverse osmosis.

### pH

The pH test is a measure of acidity. The lower the pH, the more corrosive the water. There is no health standard for pH, however corrosion of metal plumbing or fixtures is more likely to occur when pH levels are less than 7. Water greater than 7 is more likely to result in scaling. Low pH water may be more likely to result in elevated levels of copper and/or lead if those elements are included in your plumbing system.

**Barron County has a balance of \$12,853.71 that was carried over from the initial study.**