



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT - 28

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed expenditures of \$548,20 in 2022 represent an 2.7% drop from 2021. Revenues are proposed at \$380,063. The proposed levy is \$168,146 a 1.7% increase from 2021. This budget includes moving the AIS Coordinator /Land Conservation Tech from a contracted to a county position.

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Every year the bottom line of revenue and expenditures fluctuates depending on the timing of reimbursement requests with multiple grants and agreements; most of the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) budget.

After nearly 2 years of lobbying, this year the Joint Finance Committee approved a \$2,000,000 increase for 2022 and a \$2,300,000 for 2023 for our staffing and support grant! Preliminary staffing fund levels for staff in 2022 were increased by \$28,000 and increase of (23%); totaling \$147,181, by far an all-time high from DATCP. There was a slight reduction in bond (project) dollars of \$4,000 (7%), while nutrient management funding (NMP) remained the same at \$8000.

Final Staffing 2021 = \$119,187	Final Staffing 2022 = \$147,181
Final Nutrient Management 2021 = \$8,000	Final NMP 2022 = \$8,000
Final Project Funding 2021 = \$53,500	Final Project Funding 2022 = \$49,500

DATCP STAFFING AND COST SHARE GRANTS

State staffing and cost-share grants continue to fall significantly short to support the full LWCD financial needs. This past year however there was great success in lobbying, resulting in a \$2 million dollar increase for our staffing and support grant in 2022 and \$2.3 million in 2023. DATCP still doesn't meet the statutory requirement for staffing, however this was a step in the right direction. Currently the department receives enough funding for 1.7 (Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) DATCP related staff, and 1.3 funded by county levy.

Final 2021 DATCP funding for LWCD staff and support is \$119,187; an increase of \$3,561 up from the previous year, so good news there. Cost-share assistance for landowners and municipalities is \$53,500, a slight decrease of \$3,990, and nutrient management cost-sharing is \$8,000, \$27,000 less than 2020. Main reason for such a large NMP reduction is most farmers that want in the program, already are.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) / Lake Specialist

Bayfield County is in the final year of our 6th major AIS grant project, with approximately 20% of the funding over 3 years remaining. This was the last major DNR-AIS grant we will be receiving due to a reorganization of how AIS funds will be distributed in the future. There will no longer be competitive grants, but a small allocation per county across the board. The position will be shifting to more surface water protection projects and less Aquatic Invasives. (65%-35%)
The AIS program does remains strong with high participation from the lake community, and the other half of the position has handled mitigations, shoreline restorations, wetland restorations, well abandonments, and other CAD design work. The AIS portion of the position is currently funded thru 2021. 2022 AIS funding will be \$20,000.

NORTHWOODS COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (NCWMA)

Now in the 4th full year with a full-time coordinator, this program has never had more funding, thanks to the successful grant acquisition by the coordinator. This year, a Crew Leader and 2

interns were hired for control work, and 2 additional interns to operate the portable boat wash unit at various landings. 5 additional seasonal employees have accomplished a great deal of work this year! The primary funding sources remain the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR); with remaining revenues of \$85,696, coming from 5 different grant sources.

WILDLIFE ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Beginning revenues for 2022 are \$25,847, a decrease of \$8,405 down from \$34,252 in 2021; approximately 24%. The WDP technician retired in 2021 so the department is contracting with USDA Wildlife Services for the remainder of the year. LWCD and Bayfield County farmers will still receive the same service as the other counties. In 2022 the position may change to 50% Wildlife Damage and 50% NMP / Grazing Specialist due to some new grant funding.

2021 LWCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successful in designing / engineering and gaining full approval from WDNR, DATCP, and FEMA, resulting in an additional approx. \$250,000 for construction.
- Successful full revision of the NCWMA Steering Committee operations and the by-laws
- Completed the new Shoreline Stabilization Guide for shoreline landowners. Funding was completed through a DNR grant, and all the 7 WI Land and Water areas of the state contributed to print over 7,000 copies and produce the document digitally.
- Secured approximately \$70,000 additional funds for the NCWMA: securing funding for the position and program for the next several years. Hired 5 seasonal employees for the NCWMA for control work.
- Secured an additional \$28,000 (\$147,181) for staffing and support of DATCP funded staff in 2022. This amount will rise slightly in 2023 according to the governor's budget.
- Actively working with a couple new farmers in the county on conservation projects ranging from fencing cattle out of wetlands / streams, to engineering oversight of a large building for cattle – jointly funded with NRCS.
- Secured funds with USFWS totaling \$333,200 for 2 substantial stream crossing projects in Grandview on Jader Creek.
- The 2nd year of the CWD program was a huge success, collecting 6 tons of carcass waste with 2 less dumpsters on the landscape. No positive CWD tests found in 2020, great news! Funding and interest for this program remains strong.
- Held annual statewide WI Land and Water Technical Tour in Bayfield County.

2022 LWCD GOALS

- Continue to assist Wisconsin Land and Water in successfully lobbying to secure an additional \$3 million for 2023-25 DATCP budget – staff and support grant.
- Complete construction of the Delta Dump project. (\$600,000)
- Begin engineering and design of 2 large stream crossings in Grandview over Jader Creek. Partnering with USFWS for approx. \$333,200 for these projects.
- Continue to secure additional funding for the NCWMA program, CWD program, AIS program and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) private lands funds for fish and wildlife enhancement projects throughout the county.
- Continue to build relationship with a farm producer that owns the biggest bluff failure on North Fish Creek. Some small fencing / cattle watering facility projects are the goal on this farm.
- Continue the Chronic Wasting Disease Prevention Program in Bayfield County.
- Work with WI Land and Water Tech Committee on standard revisions to accommodate for more intense weather events.

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Fred Strand (Chair)
Marty Milanowski (Vice Chair)
Dave Zepczyk
Charly Ray
Peter Tetzner, Citizen Representative
Greg Tetzner, FSA Representative

FIVE-YEAR TREND | 2017 - 2021

YEAR	LWCD GRANTS	STAFF / SUPPORT	BOND	SEG	REVENUE GRAND TOTAL
2017	\$ 212,428	\$ 107,363	\$ 48,800	\$ 8,400	\$ 376,991
2018	\$ 213,563	\$ 109,813	\$ 63,750	\$ 40,000	\$ 427,126
2019	\$ 224,830	\$ 108,687	\$ 60,900	\$ 40,000	\$ 434,417
2020	\$ 217,908	\$ 115,626	\$ 57,490	\$ 35,000	\$ 426,024
2021	\$ 198,776	\$ 119,187	\$ 53,500	\$ 8,000	\$ 379,463
TOTAL	\$ 1,067,505	\$ 560,676	\$ 284,440	\$ 131,400	\$ 2,044,021

Our Mission: To assist the public in protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural resources of Bayfield County

