

Chapter V

Plan Implementation Strategy

A 5-year work plan has been prepared and lists the activities and actions the Walworth County Land Conservation Committee Staff and its partners will be advanced to achieve the goals and objectives articulated in the LWRMP up-date. The 5-year work plan prioritizes actions, includes an estimate of program costs and designates staff responsibility. The 5-year work plan is presented in Table 16 and included in Chapter IV.

State Agricultural Performance Standards and Agricultural Prohibitions

The Wisconsin DATCP requires the preparation of a strategy to implement the State runoff pollution performance standards and prohibitions contained in Chapter NR 151 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*. The strategy is contained in this Chapter.

Agricultural performance standards are runoff pollution thresholds and standards that must be met on agricultural facilities and operations. The four State Agricultural Runoff Performance Standards are:

- 1) Sheet and rill erosion. All land where crops or feed are grown shall be cropped to achieve a soil erosion rate equal to or less than the tolerable (T) rate established for that soil.
- 2) Manure storage facilities. All new, altered or abandoned manure storage facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained to prevent surface or ground water pollution. Failing or leaking manure storage facilities must be up-graded, replaced or abandoned, if determined to pose an imminent threat to public health, fish and wildlife or ground water.
- 3) Clean water diversions. Runoff shall be diverted away from contacting feedlot, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within water quality management areas (WQMA).
- 4) Nutrient management. All crop producers and livestock producers shall apply manure and other nutrients in conformance with a nutrient management plan to limit the discharge of nutrients to waters of the state and groundwater.

Agricultural prohibitions are directed at manure management. All livestock producers must comply with the following state agricultural prohibitions:

- 1) A livestock operation shall have no overflow of manure storage facilities.
- 2) A livestock operation shall have no unconfined manure storage in a WQMA.
- 3) A livestock operation shall have no direct runoff from a feedlot or stored manure.
- 4) A livestock operation shall not allow unlimited access by livestock to waters of the state in a location where high concentrations of animals prevent the maintenance of adequate sod or self-sustaining vegetation.

Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with WDNR

The Walworth County Land Conservation Committee entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WDNR in November 2009 to formalize specific roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the State Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions. A copy of this MOU is included in Appendix G, Implementation Strategy for Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions. This agreement describes the implementation strategy the County and the WDNR will use to assist Walworth County landowners comply with State agricultural performance standards and prohibitions contained in NR 151, the *State Administrative Code*. The agreement includes the following implementation strategy provisions:

1. Information and education activities;
2. Selection and evaluation of parcels for compliance status;
3. Workload selection and prioritization process for noncompliant parcels;
4. Voluntary compliance;
5. Enforcement actions for noncompliant parcels;
6. On-going compliance monitoring;
7. Documentation and reporting.

Strategy for Identifying and Targeting Priority Farms

An on-site inventory and assessment will be conducted of all farms, regardless of program participation or location. A checklist has been prepared and will be used to document farm inventories and assessments for compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions. A copy of this Checklist can be found in Appendix G, Implementation Strategy for Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.

Documentation and Landowner Notification

LURM staff will document the results of any on-site evaluation, determination and recommendation regarding compliance with State Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions. The following information will be documented and delivered to the landowner:

- Compliance or non-compliance findings and determinations on farms evaluated;
- Conservation practices needed and associated costs to bring farm into compliance;
- Cost-share assistance availability;
- Technical assistance availability;
- List of action steps that can be taken if compliance is not achieved;
- List of conditions that apply if public cost share funds are used;
- Conservation technical standards that apply;
- Affirm compliance status formally provided to landowner/operator;
- Appeal process and procedure available to landowner.

Conservation Planning and Cost Share Assistance

The LURM staff will assist landowners and agricultural producers develop conservation plans to reduce soil erosion and nutrient management plans to control and manage the application of nutrients and manure to farm fields. The County will continue to promote the use of riparian buffers, as well as other sustainable and cost-effective methods to protect Walworth County's resources.

The LURM staff will make every effort to encourage landowners voluntarily implement conservation practices to comply with the State Agricultural Performance Standards. LURM staff will seek and distribute Federal, State and Local financial assistance to landowners to encourage the use of conservation practices. Conservation practices will be designed, installed, used and maintained accorded to State and Federal approved technical standards. Chapter VI includes a list of the programs and funding sources and opportunities available to implement conservation practices. Appendix G, Implementation Strategy for Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions includes a list of Conservation Practices eligible for State cost-shore assistance.

Local Regulations Related to Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions

LURM staff will consider and use of local regulatory tools to seek compliance with State Agricultural Prohibitions and Agricultural Performance Standards. In addition, the LCC will review and amend, if necessary, the *County Code of Ordinances* related to Soil and Water Conservation Standards of Farmland Preservation Program.

Animal Waste Storage Ordinance

In 1998, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance, which set standards for the location, design, construction, alteration, abandonment and use of animal waste storage structures. The ordinance was amended in 2004 to include standards for the land application of waste removed from waste structures, subject to this ordinance. A copy of this ordinance is contained in Appendix E, Walworth County Code of Ordinances.

Zoning Regulations Related to Agricultural Uses.

LURM will continue to administer the County Zoning Ordinances related to livestock siting and protection of shorelands. Included in Appendix E are the Zoning Codes adopted by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors relevant to the implementation of this LWRPM. These codes can be viewed and downloaded from the County's website: www.co.walworth.wi.us

County Soil and Water Conservation Standards for the Farmland Preservation Program

The Walworth County Land Conservation Committee and its staff oversee the soil conservation compliance requirements for the State Farmland Preservation Program. Participants in Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Programs, including Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative (WLI) must farm according to a County-approved resource conservation plan. Resource management plans identify and prescribe soil conservation practices to maintain cropland soil erosion rates within soil loss tolerable levels or what is commonly referred to as the T-value for a soil mapping unit. Soil erosion rates must be maintained at or below the T-value to maintain the soils productivity. The average T-value for a typical Walworth County soil mapping unit is 4 tons/acres/year. The soil loss tolerance levels for Walworth County soil mapping units are listed in Appendix G, Implementation Strategy for Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.

The LCC and its staff will continue to assist landowners prepare and implement conservation plans to maintain their eligibility in Wisconsin Farm Land Preservation Programs including those available and offered through the State "Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative".

Urban Program Implementation Plan

The LWRPM 5-year Work Plan lists a number of programs, policies and activities proposed to reduce the impact of urban development and mining activities on Walworth County streams, lakes, wetlands, groundwater and other environmental resources. The LWRMP 5-year Work Plan is presented in Table 16 located in Chapter IV.

Non-agricultural Runoff Management Performance Standards

NR 151 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* establishes runoff pollution performance standards for non-agricultural activities and practices. Non-agricultural activities are predominately land development and construction activities. The State performance standards must be met on construction sites where land disturbing activities covering one acre or more. A description of the non-agricultural performance standards are contained in Appendix G, Implementation Strategy for Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.

Local Regulations Related to the Non-agricultural Performance Standards

Construction Site Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Ordinance

In 1990, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors adopted a county-wide Construction Site Erosion Control Ordinance. The LCC and the LURM staff administer this Code. This environmental code was amended in 2007 to include the non-agricultural performance standards contained in *NR 151 of the State Administrative Code*. A copy of this code can be viewed and downloaded from the County Website, www.co.walworth.wi.us and a copy is included in Appendix G, Implementation Strategy for Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.

Reclamation of the Non-metallic Mining Sites

Non-metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance

The Walworth County LCC and the committee staff administer the Walworth County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance. The purpose of these state-mandated regulatory programs is to insure nonmetallic mining activities and mining sites in Walworth County are conducted according to environmental standards and reclaimed to a planned and sustainable use after mining activities have ceased. A copy of this ordinance has been included in Appendix E, Walworth County Code of Ordinances. This Ordinance includes standards for the preparation and implementation of reclamation plans on all active mining sites in Walworth County.

Other Urban Program Initiatives

The following initiatives, listed in order of priority, will be implemented by the Walworth County LCC and staff and are intended to strengthen existing programs to protect County natural resources from the impact of urban land uses:

1. Establishment of a County-wide Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program.
2. Improve regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to insure the long-term maintenance of storm water practices.
3. Promote the use of storm water infiltration systems to replenish groundwater.
4. Promote the use of conservation-design standards for new subdivisions.

The LCC and committee staff prepared the framework to initiate and advance a County-wide Storm Water Management and Pollution Prevention Program by establishing an Intergovernmental Storm Water Work Group. The goal of this program is to use this County consortium to share knowledge, skills, experiences, and deliver cooperative, effective and fiscally responsible programs and services to prevent and manage storm water pollution. Appendix F, Walworth County Intergovernmental Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program includes a draft *Mission Statement, Work Plan, and Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement*.

Walworth County Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) can alter the ecological health of Walworth County lakes, streams and wetlands. If un-checked, AIS can spread, replace native species, bring economic loss and impair human health. The LWRMP 5-year Work Plan emphasizes activities and actions to address this growing threat to Walworth County resources. AIS control strategies heavily rely on a wide range of activities and educational programming. The LCC and committee staff will implement a comprehensive program to identify, prevent, and eradicate AIS in Walworth County. This program will be supported by a State Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant awarded to Walworth County in 2009. This program will extend through 2012. The LCC will consider extending this AIS program, if financial support is available.

The purpose of this project is to increase citizen and agency knowledge on AIS. The LCC and committee staff will implement the following activities:

1. Workshops will be held to provide educational programming on AIS;
2. Volunteer monitors will be recruited and trained using the clean boats/clean lakes watercraft inspection program protocol;
3. Water craft inspection services will be provided;
4. The presence or absence on several Walworth County lakes will be monitored, mapped, and reported;
5. AIS materials will be prepared and distributed to bait shops, nurseries and other outlets;
6. Aquatic plant surveys will be produced for Silver and North Lake;
7. Monitor for the presence of yellow floating heart in three Walworth County ponds;
8. Prepare and distribute maps of County commercial boat washing facilities;
9. Respond to reports of new AIS occurrences and help coordinate containment and eradications strategy where appropriate;
10. Partner with neighboring counties to provide AIS educational programming and citizen requests.