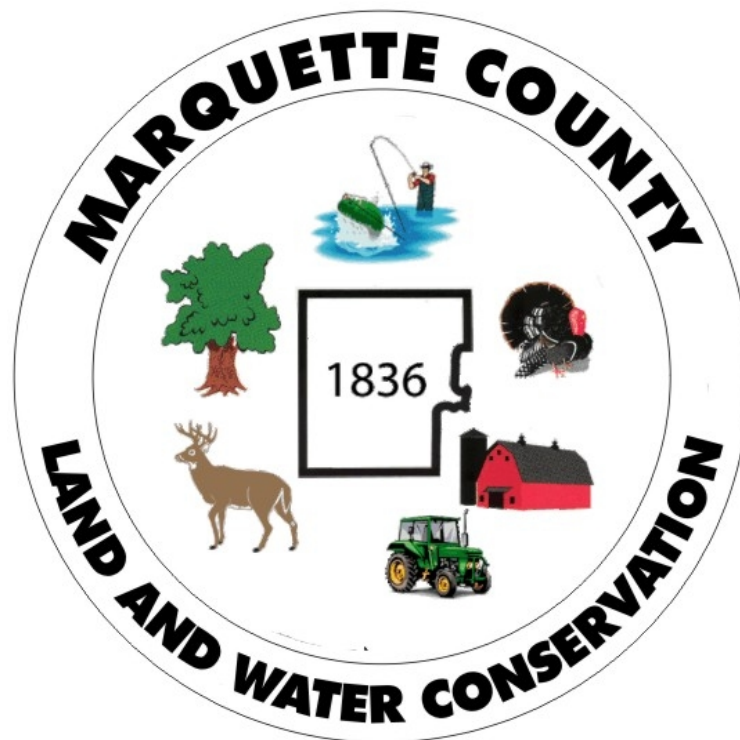


**MARQUETTE COUNTY
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

2017 Annual Report



**Compiled for the County Board of Supervisors & County
Landowners**

TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Thank You for another year of your support of the Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD).

As usual our focus is in agricultural run-off (State Performance Standards) and its effect on surface water. This does not mean we ignore other key issues such as lakeshore and near shore run-off, wildlife damage, recycling, etc.

As it has the past few years, Nutrient Management Planning has been the main focus of the Department. Look for more information on this later in this report.

LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Land & Water Conservation Department covers many resource concerns that are either covered by or regulated by different County, State or Federal Programs or Regulations. The Land & Water Resource Management Section covers the majority of the different programs listed below: *Cost Share, Staff Support, Farmland Preservation & Nutrient Management Planning*

Cost Share Dollars:

Cost share dollars made available in the form of grants to Marquette County Landowners were again spent to the fullest extent possible. Priorities always start with agricultural run-off practices being the top concern to help us get Landowners in compliance with State Conservation Standards.

2017 saw a **total of \$69,285.00** spent directly on Landowners in the County!
Also, a rather large project did not get constructed due to weather constraints. This is applied to 2018 Landowner Grants.

Cost Share Summary

Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture.....	\$	55,785.00
EQIP (USDA Federal).....	\$	13,500.00
		Total \$ 69,285.00

Staff Support Grants

Marquette County is reimbursed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture (DATCP) for a large majority of all staff dollars. The State supplies these Grant Dollars so Marquette County continues to have a viable Land and Water Conservation presence while implementing the State Run-Off (Ag-Performance) Standards.

Salary/Grant Breakdown

2017 LWCD Salary/Benefit Totals:	\$190,356
DNR Recycling Grant:	\$ 8,989
<u>Wis. DATCP Grant:</u>	<u>\$112,787</u>
Total County Levy for salaries:	\$ 68,580

Remember, only 3 Full Time Staff for \$68,580 against the tax levy

Farmland Preservation

Certificate of Compliance Unique Number Required

Starting in 2016 the Department of Revenue is now requiring all eligible Landowners who want to take the credit, to have a unique Conservation Compliance Number (COC#). This of course, meant in **2017** our Department had to verify all parcels of Land for each Landowner and give them a new COC Form. We are continuing to issue Certificates for qualifying landowners that have now become eligible.

2017 FPP Final Participation

53 Eligible Landowners were issued a Notice of Compliance
0 Ineligible Landowners were issued Notice of Non-Compliance
16,835.59 Claimed FPP Acres in Marquette County

In order to receive the State Income Tax Credit, a Landowner must first be compliant with State Conservation Standards. The Land & Water Conservation Department must find their land to be compliant by looking at animal waste runoff, erosion and also nutrient management plans.

Nutrient Management Planning

This year we were able to add an additional **new 3,360 Acres to Nutrient Management Planning**, along with another **2,050 Reclaimed/Corrected NMP Acres**. With adjustments made, Marquette County now has **31,872 Acres enrolled in Nutrient Management Planning**.

Nutrient Management Planning effects farmers with OR without animal waste, as fertilizer and manure are both VALUABLE nutrients. A Nutrient Management Plan assures a farmer is not over applying manure, fertilizer or pesticides that pose an environmental threat (when over applied).

Farmer Training

Having an Agronomist on staff has proven valuable. This position trained 8 new Landowners and updated/trained 22 Landowners with existing plans how to create and update their OWN Nutrient Management Plan. This Farmer training gives them firsthand knowledge of a plan and most importantly gives them ownership in the plan so they follow and implement it.

Other Programs of Importance

Non-Metallic Mine Reclamation

Mine Reclamation (restoring quarries to their pre-mining condition) again was a very stagnant program in 2017 with no mines reclaimed or any new ones being established. Staff still spends a considerable amount of time reviewing plans, permits and also answering questions for possible new mines throughout County.

One has a lease expiring on December 31st, 2017 and if not renewed, will be reclaimed in 2018. Stay tuned for updates on the process.

Marquette County Mines (ACTIVE):

Owner/Operator:	Acres:
Richard Pit/Marquette County Highway	12
Frozone/Milestone Materials	30
Pockrandt/Kramer Company	32
Wampler	3

Aquatic Invasive Species

Completing the 5th year, the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator (*AIS Coordinator for short*) for Marquette County had a busy year. When not surveying and mapping County Lakes for Invasive Species, she was busy educating Lake Property Owners and those that use our lakes, to be aware of Invasive Species. Some of you may have seen her at Lake District meetings or at a boat landing as you were launching your boat.

This position is **100% paid for by State DNR Grants** through our conservation partner from Stevens Point, the Golden Sands Resource, Conservation & Development Association (RC&D). Marquette County supports the AIS Position by supplying Office space and supplies.

Zoning Department Assistance

The County Land & Water Conservation Department assists the County Zoning Department in certain environmental areas each year. These include (but are not limited to) Construction Site Erosion Control, Stormwater, Board of Adjustment requests and other Zoning Ordinance issues as needed.

Construction Site Erosion Control Plans:	16
Administrative Reviews/Stormwater:	12

Wildlife Damage Program

Total *reported* damage done by Whitetail Deer in Marquette County during 2017 totaled \$54,140 with payable claims amounting to \$40,000. Please note this was *reported* damage, not complete damage in the entire County, if ALL damage was reported it would be an astronomical number.

Tree and Shrub Sale

2017 tree sale was an average year as far as sales but almost perfect when it came to growing conditions as there was ample moisture all year.

In 2017 a total of 46,750 trees were sold.

Recycling

Recycling was another “business as usual” program in Marquette County. Residents continue (for 20th year in a row) to recycle more pounds of recyclables per household than the rates set by the DNR. This is an excellent track record for Marquette County

Recycling grants are supplied by the County Land & Water Conservation Department to every Town/Village/Municipality in the County except the Villages of Oxford and Endeavor. The total 2017 DNR grant for this program was \$75,143 with total expenditures by the Municipalities at \$163,404.

Recycling is another program that does not use any tax levy. All related *County* recycling expenses are reimbursed to Marquette County at 100%.

Summary

Marquette County, for a smaller County, has a very active Conservation Community that is always ready to address a resource concern in the County. Whether it is a lake group, agricultural group or just a recreational landowner, they are always ready.

It is thanks to the continued support of the County Board of Supervisors that makes this County always on the forefront of conservation.

Thanks for your past and future support of the Marquette County Land & Water Conservation Department.

Respectively Submitted
Patrick Kilbey
County Conservationist