

**2010 ANNUAL REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Ozaukee County

The Land and Water Management Department partners with state, federal, and local organizations to protect, preserve, and enhance natural resources, local ecology, and the quality of life in Ozaukee County.

We strive to serve Ozaukee County taxpayers and other users of the department in a timely, efficient, and professional manner.

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR PROGRAMS

LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2010 INSTALLATION OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Practice(s)	Unit
Grassed Waterway	2 waterways; total length 900 ft. = 1.0 acre
Heavy Use Area Protection	1 project = approximately 0.1 acres
Waste Transfer	3 units
Manure Storage	2 units
Stream Buffers	26.05 acres = 5,084 ft. of stream buffer
590 Nutrient Management Plans	913.6 acres installed; 5 new cost-share agreements = 188.1 acres planned
Access Road/Animal Walkways	1 project = 150 ft.
Roof Runoff System	9 systems installed
Underground Outlets/ Subsurface Drains	3 units = 2,765 ft.
Critical Area Stabilization	2 units = 0.4 acres
Wetland Enhancements	4 units = 1.88 acres
Livestock Fencing	100 ft. for animal exclusion
Well Decommissioning	2 wells
Ponds	3 ponds
Stream Crossing	2 crossings
Irrigation System	5 acres
Streambank Protection	300 ft.

State Cost-Sharing Funds Expended

Soil and Water Resource Management Grant - \$79,302.81 for constructed practices, and \$5,266.80 for land applied practices; DNR Office of the Great Lakes - \$25,400.00.

Federal Funds

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service provided more than \$10,000 to Ozaukee County landowners for the installation of soil and water conservation practices.

Manure Storage Permits

One permit was issued for the installation of two manure storage facilities.

USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) SUMMARY

The USDA service center in West Bend services Ozaukee County. Staff members are Josh Odekirk (District Conservationist), Elsie Gonzalez (Soil Conservationist), and JoAnn Pipkorn (Office Automation Clerk). The staff travels to Port Washington to assist Ozaukee County landowners.

Below are some of the tasks completed by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2010:

- Conservation plans were updated on numerous operator conservation farm plans. The updates evaluated HEL (Highly Erodible Land). All HEL fields were planned so the soil loss from the cropping systems meets “T,” the “tolerable” soil loss level.
- Assisted six landowners with planning or completing the following practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):
 - One grassed waterway.
 - Four seasonal high tunnel systems.
 - Over 250 acres of nutrient management and cover crop
- Enrolled 22 acres over three producers in the Conservation Reserve Program.
- Enrolled two producers in the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- Contributed \$435.00 to Ozaukee County for technical assistance given by the Land and Water Management Department for design and construction oversight for USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program.
- Entered into a contribution agreement for conservation planning with the Ozaukee County Land and Water Management Department as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

WISCONSIN FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM / WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE

Conservation plans are on file for approximately 140 landowners who participated in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) in 2010. During the summer of 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, sent a letter to known 2008 FPP participants. The letter outlined the requirements of continued participation, and requested that landowners who planned to continue in the program contact the Ozaukee County Land and Water Management Department. We have received 46 responses from landowners and accountants. The FPP tax credit is \$7.50/acre for 2010. Each farm or tract of land will need to be inspected in 2011 for conservation compliance.

Department staff provided assistance to the Ozaukee County Land Conservation Partnership and the Land Preservation Board. Another project involved working with Gathering Waters Conservancy and the American Farmland Trust to coordinate a workshop for PACE (Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program). Forty-five people attended the workshop.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT AND CLAIMS

This program offers abatement and claims assistance to agricultural producers who suffer economic loss from crop damage by deer, geese, or turkeys. Through this 100% state-funded program, numerous agricultural crop fields were evaluated for damage. One crop producer enrolled in the program, with another eight requesting appraisals of initial crop damage. A total of \$266.96 was spent on repellants for deer. Typically 20 to 50 calls are taken every year regarding damage complaints not covered by the program for cost sharing, but for which technical assistance is allowed. No claims for wildlife damage were made on commodity crops. Two landowners did receive deer shooting permits through Act 82.

Deer Donation

Forty deer were donated through the donation program. A total of 1,513 pounds of ground venison was distributed to Family Sharing in Grafton, St. Peter of Alcantara Catholic Church in Port Washington, and Random Lake Area Interfaith Pantry. The program paid \$55.00 per deer or 100% of the processing charge, for a total cost of \$2,200.00. Saukville Meats and Schwai's Meat & Sausage were the venison processors.

From the start of the donation program in 2000 and through 2010, a total of 891 deer have been donated in Ozaukee County. This equals approximately 20 tons of ground venison.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

A general permit under the Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) was issued to Ozaukee County to discharge stormwater from all portions of the municipal separate storm sewer system. The WPDES permit requires the implementation of the following programs: public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site pollutant control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention.

A stormwater education and outreach plan was developed, and recently updated, with all county stormwater-permitted communities to increase efficiencies of local government and meet the permit requirements.

A pollutant-loading model analysis using the Source Loading and Management Model (SLAMM) was completed for county facilities within the "urbanized area." For 2008, the permit required a 20% reduction of total suspended solids (TSS) discharging from county facilities to waters of the state when compared to no controls. The model indicates the county meets this 20% reduction of TSS, mainly due to the treatment provided by grass swales. The permit requires a 40% reduction in TSS by 2013. Our department will continue to work with the Ozaukee County Highway Department to meet the 40% reduction in TSS.

GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

The Land and Water Management Department worked with local municipal gypsy moth coordinators to investigate possible gypsy moth-infested areas. No eligible treatment blocks were established for 2010. Gypsy moth populations have been low recently, but may rise dramatically in any given year.

EMERALD ASH BORER

The emerald ash borer was found for the first time in Wisconsin in August, 2008, near the Ozaukee County community of Newburg. The emerald ash borer is an invasive wood-boring beetle that feeds on the tissues under the bark of ash trees, thereby killing them. This metallic green beetle is native to East Asia and was accidentally imported to the United States within the wood of shipping crates from China. It was first discovered in North America in 2002, near Detroit, Michigan.

Ozaukee, Brown, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Vernon, Washington, and Waukesha counties have been designated as quarantine areas by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Residents and affected businesses in these counties are prohibited from moving any hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, or ash logs or timber out of the quarantine area.

In 2010, timber sales were established on seven properties within a three-mile radius of Newburg. Six of the properties are in Ozaukee County; one is in Washington County.

The LWM Department provided EAB information to county residents and assisted federal, state, and local officials as necessary. Several informational sessions regarding the emerald ash borer were held in 2010.

TREE, SHRUB, AND PRAIRIE GRASS & WILDFLOWER SEED / RAIN BARREL SALE

Approximately 29,575 trees and shrub plants were sold to approximately 314 landowners. A total of 47 orders of prairie seed were sold to plant approximately 15.7 acres. Twenty rain barrels were sold.

SUCKER BROOK COASTAL WATERSHED PROJECT

Nonpoint source pollution remains a significant concern in Ozaukee County and threatens the water quality of Sucker Brook, which discharges directly into Lake Michigan. A grant was received from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to conduct a habitat assessment of the watershed, locate and map all outfalls and pipe discharge points into the brook, sample representative outfalls and surface water for pollutants of concern, determined the applicability of buffers along drainages, and develop a plan of action to improve water quality. These tasks began in 2010 and will continue in 2011. In addition, a *Sucker Brook Partnership* of landowners and concerned citizens was formed.

RE-ESTABLISHING FISH PASSAGE IN THE MILWAUKEE RIVER WATERSHED

The LWM Department is among several partners working to improve fish passage in the Milwaukee River. The department is assisting with implementing the \$4.7 million *Fish Passage in the Milwaukee River Watershed Project*, funded through the American Recovery and Investment Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

County staff developed an educational presentation on “how to build a rain garden” for interested property owners and local landscaping companies. Twenty private landowners and one landscape company attended this event. Two speakers from Agrecol, the plant nursery assisting with this project, conducted a very useful discussion on establishing a rain garden. A master gardener from the University Wisconsin Extension discussed the value and benefits of rain gardens for stormwater management.

The annual county fair display, department newsletter and web site, school presentations, and various information sessions served to provide ongoing environmental education.

SANITATION

In 2010, the Land and Water Management Department issued 105 State of Wisconsin sanitary permits to allow the installation of Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) within the county. The following table is an explanation of these permits.

System Type	Number of Permits Issued	New Construction POWTS	Replacement POWTS	Total Revenue
A+0 Mound	4	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	–
A+0 Mound with pretreatment	0	0	0	–
A+4 Mound	30	16 (53%)	14 (47%)	–
A+4 Mound with pretreatment	9	3 (33%)	6 (67%)	–

At-Grade	2	1 (50%)	1 (w/ATU) (50%)	–
Conventional	3	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	–
Holding Tank	12	0	12 (100%)	–
In-Ground Pressure	0	0	0	–
In-Ground Pressure with pretreatment	1	0	1 (100%)	–
Mound	24	11 (46%)	13 (54%)	–
Mound with pretreatment	3	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	–
Modifications all system types*	11	N/A	11 (100%)	–
Total:	99	35 (35%)	64 (65%)	\$55,825.00
* Modifications include component replacements and/or additions to existing systems.				
Six additional state permits were issued as transfers and renewals (revenue \$450.00).				

The department also issued **nine** county permits for existing POWTS: **one** for a system reconnection, **six** for system abandonments, and **two** for system repairs. Application fees totaled **\$1,400.00**.

As a Wisconsin Department of Commerce agent for POWTS plan review, the LWM Department reviewed **95** plans. A total of **\$18,090.00** was paid in plan review fees. Department inspectors also performed **121** final inspections during the year.

Other POWTS-related revenue totaled **\$2,780.00**. This includes fees for POWTS certifications, on-site soil evaluations, and Wisconsin Fund applications.

POWTS Maintenance Program

The department issued **1897** notices for required routine maintenance on POWTS in the county. As of December 31, approximately **47 (2.48%)** of the POWTS involved were non-compliant. Total one-time maintenance reporting fees received by the department during the year amounted to **\$1,620.00** (new construction only).

The department received **\$5,000** from Transcendent Technologies for the sale of the POWTS Maintenance Program software to two counties.

Wisconsin Fund

The department processed **12** applications for the Wisconsin Fund Private Sewerage System Replacement or Rehabilitation Grant Program. A total of **\$46,199.00** was distributed to these applicants.

SHORELAND ZONING

The department issued **51** zoning and stipulated permits to allow the improvement of lands within the shoreland area of the county. The following table is an explanation of these permits:

Permit Type	Number of Permits Issued	Total Revenue
Principal Structure*	15	–
Accessory Structure*	13	–
Stipulated	18	–
General	5	–
Total:	51	\$11,357.20

*Includes modification and/or addition to an existing structure.

The department presented **three** applicants requesting conditional use permits and **one** appealing a decision of the Zoning Administrator to the Board of Adjustment. The three conditional use permit applications were approved; the appeal of the Zoning Administrator decision was denied. Application fees totaled **\$825.00 (one fee waived)**.

The department presented **two** applicants to the Environment and Land Use Committee for petitions to change zoning classification (rezoning). Both petitions were approved. Application fees amounted to **\$330.00 (one fee waived)**.

Community Rating System Participant

The county is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Community Rating System (CRS). As a result, flood insurance premiums in the unincorporated areas are reduced by 10%. The program rewards communities for activities which go beyond the minimum required by the national flood insurance program.

NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION


The LWM Department is presently working with operators of four active sand/gravel pits in the Town of Fredonia to monitor implementation of their reclamation plans. All mine operations (gravel pits) are inspected on an annual basis, and all have approved reclamation plans and associated financial assurance. Three of the non-metallic mines are owned by Hartmann Sand & Gravel Co., Inc.; one is owned by Ozaukee County. The county-owned non-metallic mine is the Hetzel-Bee Keeper Bog pit. This was a new permit in 2009 and, although twelve acres are approved for mining, less than one acre is currently open and actively mined. The department oversees a total of 272 approved mining acres in the county, with 109.5 acres actively mined. To date, a total of 29 acres have been reclaimed but not released from financial assurance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Throughout the year, the department provided assistance to numerous landowners, realtors, and consultants regarding land and water issues, sanitation, POWTS maintenance, shoreland and floodplain zoning, non-metallic mining, wildlife management, conservation planning, and any other subjects on which we had information.

Thank you for your support of our many programs and initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Holschbach", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Andy Holschbach, Director
Department of Land and Water Management