

2009 ANNUAL REPORT
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement: Provide sound technical and educational assistance in the management, protection, and enhancement of soil and water resources to land users in Sheboygan County.



Summary of Responsibilities:

The Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) administers the conservation programs and policies of the Sheboygan County Planning, Resources, Agriculture and Extension Committee. The Department's responsibilities include management of soil and water resources, control and prevention of soil erosion and watershed protection. The Land and Water Conservation Department carries out these responsibilities by providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and land users in rural and urban areas of Sheboygan County.

The Department also provides technical assistance to town, village and city governments regarding drainage and soil erosion control. The Land and Water Conservation Department was organized by County Board resolution under Chapter 92 of Wisconsin State Statutes. The Department currently has five employees totaling 133 years of experience.

2009 Land and Water Conservation Department Program Summary

Water Quality Improvement Program - (Buffer Strips) provides contracting and installation of vegetated buffer strips on Sheboygan County's waterways for water quality improvement.

Land and Water Resource Management Program - provides survey, design, construction and cost-share assistance funds to county landowners to install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

Farmland Preservation Program - conservation planning and program compliance to ensure that the 600 plus landowners in Sheboygan County are in compliance with the county's soil erosion standards. Average tax credit for Sheboygan County landowners who participate is \$600.

County Chapter 75-Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Ordinance-requires permits for erosion control and stormwater management plans for any land disturbance over one acre in the unincorporated areas of Sheboygan County.

County Chapter 78 - Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program/Ordinance – reviewing, approving, and permitting reclamation plans for nonmetallic mines.

County Chapter 77 - Animal Waste Management Regulations/Permitting Program – permitting new animal waste storage facilities, feedlots and animal waste facility closures to ensure applicable county, State, and Federal standards are followed.

Tree and Shrub Program - encourages tree and shrub plantings in the county. Over 80,000 trees and shrubs sold to 600 landowners in 2009. Over one million trees & shrubs sold since 1998.

Subdivision Plat Reviews - for compliance with Sheboygan County's erosion control and stormwater management ordinance.

Technical Assistance - provide technical service and conservation planning assistance to landowners and units of government. Staff assess sources of erosion or pollution with the landowners/unit of government and draft suggested solutions. Once decisions are finalized the LWCD will design and provide construction assistance for the project and certify that the project meets applicable standards and regulations.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program – damage abatement and crop loss assistance through Sheboygan County and funded by the Department of Natural Resources.

Technical Assistance to USDA-NRCS (United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service) - for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and the Local Workgroup.

Goals/Objectives Achieved in 2009

- **Implementation of Chapter 78-Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance** - 3 permits issued in 2009.

-**Implementation of Chapter 77- Animal Waste Management Ordinance**-3 permits issued in 2009.

- **Implemented the Sheboygan County Buffer Initiative** – 5 landowners contracted and installed a total of 22,588 feet (4.3 miles) of grassed buffer strips for water quality improvement.

- **Sold and distributed over 80,000 trees** to 600 property owners in April 2009.

- **Administered the Pigeon River Project.** 2009 was the last year of implementation.

- **NR-135 (County Chapter 78) Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance** - 17 active permits in nine townships. 2009 Annual County Permit fees totaled \$8,260.00.

- **Provided technical and financial assistance** to Sheboygan County land users, towns and municipalities regarding soil and water resource issues.

- **Land and Water Resource Management Program** - This State of Wisconsin DATCP (Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection) grant program provides cost-sharing funds to landowners for water quality and conservation improvement practices. In 2009 Sheboygan County allocation was \$62,394.00, and a 2008 carryover of \$6,619.00.

2009 Knowledge Sharing

*LWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program Web Page

*Quarterly Land and Water Conservation Department newsletters

*Lake Michigan Area Association Summer Tour held in Sheboygan County

2009 Land Conservation Department Budget Status:

The approved 2009 budget was \$740,110, while actual expense totaled \$594,119. The 2009 levy appropriation was \$299,130, while the 2008 levy was \$342,147. 2009 budgeted revenue was \$740,110, while 2009 actual revenue totaled \$611,890. Grants received for 2009: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, Cost Sharing and Staff and Program Support, Department of Natural Resources, Cost Sharing, Environmental Damage Compensation Fund, Great Lakes Harbors and Bay Fund, and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association. The adopted 2010 LWCD budget expenses total \$670,002, with a levy appropriation of \$306,348.

Other 2009 Accomplishments

- Assisted in the Establishment of the Sheboygan County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Municipal Workgroup
- Completed a county wide municipal owned land tree survey for the EAB Management Plan
- Served on Onion River Restoration Committee/Trout Unlimited
- Implemented Water Quality Monitoring Runoff Test Site
- Updated LWCD Water Quality Monitoring Web Page
- Obtained Grant to Employ Natural Resources Summer Student Intern (LTE)
- Provided Well Water Tests to 80 Town Greenbush Residents-County Well Water Testing Program
- Initiated a Well Decommissioning Program for County Landowners
- Provided representation on the Sheboygan River Basin Partnership
- Investigated 13 County Stormwater Outfalls-4 Outfalls Tested for Pollutants
- Received \$5000 Urban Forestry Grant for 2009/2010
- Received \$4550 County Stewardship Grant for Well Water Testing in 2010
- Received \$3590 Grant from USDA for Technical Assistance for Joint LWCD/USDA NRCS Project
- Land & Water Resource Management Plan Revision (DATCP & State Land & Water Conservation Board)
- Published Sheboygan County Response Guide for Manure Spills and Run-Off for Landowners/Applicators

2009 Conservation Practice Planning, Design or Installation

- 3 Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Plan Review/Permits Issued
- 17 Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Permits Reviewed
- 1 Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Completed
- 11 Wildlife Damage Abatement/Claims
- 1 Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit Planning
- 5 Buffer Strip Contracts/Installation
- 7 Wells Decommissioned
- 4 Grassed Waterways/Outlet/Stabilization Structures/Crossing
- 3 Animal Waste Permits Issued
- 4 Animal Waste Storage Systems
- 1 Access Road/Cattle Crossings
- 1 Barnyard Runoff Management Systems
- 3 Erosion Control/Stormwater Management Permits Issued
- 4 Stormwater Management/Subdivision Reviews
- 17 Topographic/GPS/Laser Surveys
- 16 Land & Water Resource Management Program Contracts
- 2 Group Drainage Project Designs
- 2 Soil Investigations
- 7 Animal Waste Complaints
- 2 Sediment Runoff Complaints
- 1 Fish Pond (1 Acre)

Issues, Concerns and Restraints:

State of Wisconsin NR 151 and ATCP 50 financial support remains a problem for Sheboygan County LWCD to implement the agricultural and nonagricultural nonpoint performance standards. The State has been unable to financially support these mandates fully. In addition, Land and Water Resource Management Plan implementation cost-share funds from the state are inadequate to fully implement the current Land and Water Resource Management Plan, which was approved in February 2010 by the State of Wisconsin Land & Water Board, and Sheboygan County Board in March 2010.

Goals and Objectives for 2010:

- Administer the LWCD Well Abandonment Program and Township Well Water Testing Program
- Evaluate and apply for DATCP, DNR and Coastal Management Grant and funds.
- Implement the Sheboygan County Buffer Initiative program.
- Administer the Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program, Land and Water Resource Management Program.
- Administer the Sheboygan County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance, Animal Waste Storage Permitting Ordinance, and Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance.
- Administer the LWCD Annual Tree and Shrub Sales Program.
- Provide technical and financial assistance to Sheboygan County land users regarding soil and water resources.
- Initiate a Well Water Testing Program for Town of Herman & Village Howards Grove Residents.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

