

Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department Annual Report 2010

Mission Statement and Summary of Responsibilities

The Planning & Conservation Department is committed to providing sound information and knowledge on environmental issues that affect our community, protecting our County's natural resources, and, first and foremost, working with the public which we serve in a straightforward, honest approach.

Planning Division Responsibilities

- Administer and enforce the state mandated *Sheboygan County Sanitary Ordinance*.
- Administer and enforce the state mandated *Sheboygan County Shoreland & Floodplain Ordinances*.
- Administer and enforce the *Sheboygan County Subdivision Ordinance*.
- Administer the County's Household Hazardous Waste program.
- Administer the County's Waste Pharmaceutical Collection program.
- Coordinate the County's compliance with mandated State Administrative Code NR-216 Phase II for stormwater management as required by the Federal Clean Water Act.
- Coordinate the implementation of the Federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot program that provides up to \$25 million for the development of a non-motorized transportation network to connect neighborhoods, schools, business, and recreation areas.
- Administer State recreation grant-in-aid funds including the Snowmobile Funds, Fish-And-Game Aids, Stewardship, and other grant programs we qualify for as they become available.
- Administer the State Farmland Preservation Program.
- Maintain address and responder information in the Computer Aided Dispatch system for the County Sheriff's Department.
- Develop and maintain emergency response mapping for emergency responders in the County.
- Issue addresses and maintain accurate mapping throughout the County.
- Maintain, coordinate, and oversee the daily operation and management of the County recreational facilities including the Old Plank Road Trail, Interurban Trail, Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park, boat access sites at Gerber Lake, Jetzer Lake, Crystal Lake, Little Elkhart Lake, and Elkhart Lake, and the Gerber Lake Wildlife Area.
- Maintain, coordinate, and oversee the Sheboygan Marsh Management Agreement with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Maintain Geographic Information System data for the County including roads, navigability, hydrology, shoreland-floodplain jurisdictional boundaries, mandated Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain mapping, and zoning.
- Administer the recreational fee program.
- Provide planning and mapping assistance to local communities.
- Maintain and revise components of the mandated County's comprehensive plan.
- Administer the County's Stewardship grant program.
- Administer the Wisconsin Fund program that provides financial assistance for individuals with limited income to replace failing septic systems.

Conservation Division Responsibilities

- Administer the County's *Water Quality Improvement Program* (buffer strips) providing contracting and installation of vegetated buffer strips on Sheboygan County's waterways for water quality improvement.
- Administer the County's *Land and Water Resource Management Program* providing survey, design, construction and cost-share assistance funds to county landowners to install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Administer compliance in the Farmland Preservation Program conservation planning 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.

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- Administer *County Chapter 75-Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Ordinance* requiring permits for erosion control and stormwater management plans for any land disturbance over one acre in the unincorporated areas of Sheboygan County.
- Administer *County Chapter 78-Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program/Ordinance* reviewing, approving, and permitting reclamation plans for nonmetallic mines.
- Administer *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.
- Coordinate Tree and Shrub Program encouraging tree and shrub plantings in the county. Over 62,000 trees and shrubs sold to 520 landowners in 2010. Over one million trees & shrubs sold since 1998.
- Review Subdivision Plats for compliance with Sheboygan County's erosion control and stormwater management ordinance.
- Provide technical service and conservation planning assistance to landowners and units of government. Staff assesses sources of erosion or pollution with the landowners/unit of government and draft suggested solutions. Once decisions are finalized the Conservation Division will design and provide construction assistance for the project and certify that the project meets applicable standards and regulations.
- Coordinate the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program providing damage abatement and crop loss assistance through Sheboygan County and funded by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Provide 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 and Objectives Achieved in 2010

Continued progress on implementation of the Federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Project. Funding has been authorized for 35 projects; 17 are complete, under construction, or will begin construction in 2011. The remaining projects are currently either in design or have design contracts in final stages of negotiations. Construction is scheduled to begin on the remaining projects in 2012.

The Department began review of the current County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance with a stakeholders group made up of lake association members, real estate developers and agents, local political leaders, and other interested citizens. The group was formed to address the changes made by the State to NR-115. The new requirements must be implemented by counties by February 1, 2012. The new language was approved by the State Legislature after eight years of bi-partisan work and deliberation.

The Department continues to be involved in the federal Superfund hazardous waste cleanup efforts of 14 miles of the Sheboygan River and coordinates much of the activity associated with this large and complex project to remove polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and other dangerous contaminants from the river to protect the environment and human health. After 30 years, dredging of the polluted material begins in April 2011.

The City of Sheboygan took advantage of a long-standing State statute that requires counties to maintain digital mapping layers and transferred their mapping to the County. The Department now maintains all County data and has been working to update, cross-check, and apply the City's data to our standards.

With coordination from the County's law enforcement and emergency response units, the Department began to implement the new address sign initiative. Address signs in the unincorporated areas of the County will be entirely updated by 2015 allowing emergency situations to be better located through the enhanced signage.

The Department applied and received funding for two Congestion, Mitigation, Air Quality (CMAQ) grants. One grant helps complete the long-term goal of connecting the Interurban Trail between Oostburg and Sheboygan. The

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second grant helps leverage Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program for the conversion of abandoned Union Pacific rail line that is currently derelict and an eyesore in the heart of Sheboygan.

In 2010, 142 sanitary permits were issued, a decrease of 8.97% from the 156 permits issued in 2009. The decrease is believed to be due to the continued economic downturn. In 2010, 83 shoreland permits and 4 conditional use permits were issued; a slight decrease from the 88 shoreland permits and 7 conditional use permits issued in 2009. Although these permit numbers have decreased, the complexity of the permit issuance process and type and size of the projects continue to grow, increasing the time spent per permit.

The Department reviewed and approved 40 certified survey maps in 2010, up from 39 maps reviewed and approved in 2009. No new subdivision plats were approved in 2010, although several are in various stages of review. This is similar to 2009 statistics. The certified survey maps created 79 new lots encompassing 843.38 acres. This is up from the 75 lots encompassing 964.4 acres approved in 2009.

On September 22, 2010 the Planning & Resources Department merged with the Land & Water Conservation Department to become the Planning & Conservation Department.

Budget

Planning Division

The Planning Division 2010 expenses show a positive variance of \$525,839 from the adopted budget primarily due to unspent funds from the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. However, the positive variance is also due to \$85,346 worth of personnel related costs including resignations, retirements, and a freeze on overtime. The 2011 Division budget is \$3,139,994. With anticipated revenues totaling \$2,397,858, the Division's impact on the tax levy is \$742,136, or 31% of the cost of doing Division business. This levy amount is 5% below 2010 levels.

Conservation Division

The Land Conservation Division's 2010 approved budget was \$682,552. The Division's actual revenue of \$621,164 versus actual expenses of \$619,957 provides a positive variance of \$3,609 for 2010. The 2011 Division budget is \$602,102 which is a 12% decrease over 2010. With anticipated revenues totaling \$323,184 in 2011, the Division's impact on the tax levy is \$278,918, or 86% of the cost of doing Division business.

Issues, Concerns, and Challenges Ahead

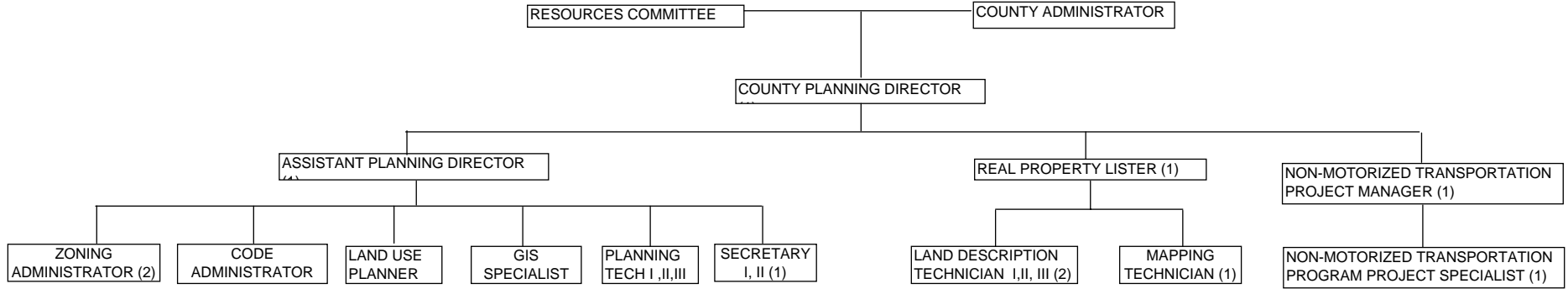
- Implementation of the Federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program continues to require additional resources that the Department does not have.
- Increasing complications related to Ordinance regulation. Permit issuance continues to be increasingly more difficult, with site configurations that are more challenging and projects that have not been encountered before.
- Implementation of the Department's new septic/holding tank automation software has been set back a number of times for various reasons.
- Implementation of the changes to the County Shoreland Ordinance to comply with the new state-mandated revisions to NR 115.

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Goals and Objectives for 2011

- Modernization of the Sanitary Permit records program to gain efficiencies with a goal to reduce staff time required to run the program.
- Produce a management plan for the Department's facilities.
- Assist local Towns with the state-mandated transition from Farmland Preservation Program to the Working Lands Initiative.
- Continued implementation of the Federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program projects not yet constructed.
- Update the mandated Sheboygan County Farmland Preservation Plan with help from a DATCP grant.
- Continue to expand the Waste Pharmaceutical Collection program by locating a third and fourth permanent drop off box at the Sheboygan Falls and Elkhart Lake Police Departments.
- Continue to expand the collection of hazardous wastes from households, farms, and small businesses and increase opportunities for citizens to recycle waste oil filters and electronics under a new statewide landfill ban on these items.
- Continue to work toward the reconstruction and repair of the Old Plank Road Trail to meet current design standards and safety concerns.
- Continue to work toward the connection of the Interurban Trail in two phases: from Oostburg to the City of Sheboygan, and from Sheboygan to Green Bay.
- Continue to refine the work of the Department now that we have merged to identify duplication, inefficiencies, and other cost-savings.
- Secure outside funding from various sources to enhance the programs administered by the Planning & Conservation Department.
- Administer the County Stewardship Grant program.
- Produce a management plan for the Gerber Lake property.
- Finalize a future activity plan for the Gerber Lake property.
- Begin work on The Nature Conservancy watershed grant (funded by the Kohler Trust) the Department will play a key role in.
- Continue to coordinate the federal Superfund hazardous waste dredging project in the Sheboygan River to remove the source of persistent contaminants, lift fish consumption bans, and greatly improve economic development potential.
- Continue to work with the lessees of the Marsh Lodge and Campground and the Friends of the Marsh non-profit organization to further improve facilities at the Marsh, including a new multi-purpose building.
- Continue to collect data on the economic impact that trails and other recreational assets have on the County.
- Update our website.
- Work on better promoting our County's assets to citizens and visitors of our County.
- Secure funding for dredging of the Little Elkhart Lake boat landing.
- Develop an advisory committee that advises the County on all its recreational facilities rather than just the Marsh.
- Finalize the new sanitary/septic/holding tank automation software.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

