



**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY PROGRAM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**February 16, 2005**

- A. **INSTRUCTIONS:** For each program, list the Scheduled Review Date, the Department, the Department Mission Statement and the Program Title at the top of the page, and answer the following questions for each program. The overall response for each program should be no greater than two (2) pages in length.

**SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE:** April 12, 2005

**DEPARTMENT:** Game Wardens

**DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:**

To protect and promote the safe and wise use of Sheboygan County's natural resources, through enforcement and education.

**PROGRAM:** County Wardens

**1. Describe the program, its purpose and goals. "Cops of the woods & the waters"**

Staff currently consists of 4 employees & 3 vacancies. Staff restricted to 7 part-time county positions. Duties of this position require that the employee be a DOJ/DNR Certified Wisconsin Law Enforcement officer. Program is funded by the County & supervised by the state, in compliance with WI Statute 23.10 & County Ordinance Chapter 31. Current Program supervisors are Conservation Wardens Mike Clutter & Mark Pearce (WI DNR, Plymouth).

The 2005 Program Budget (\$27,737.00) has a \$21,000.00 wage line. ~1750 hours effort/year (Wage set at \$12.05/hr). The program has been in the County, for over 48 years. County Ordinance #4 ('72-'73) references County Resolution #82 ('57), which dealt with the appointment of County Wardens. County Wardens served without compensation, until sometime in the 1970s.

Program promotes safe outdoor recreation and protection of the natural resources, in Sheboygan County. Provides enforcement of resource-related statutes & administrative rules. These are year round part-time positions that have irregular work hours (Day, night, weekends, weekdays, and holidays). Maximum of 599 hours/employee, per year.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Enforcement of ATV, boat, snowmobile, fishing, hunting, and trapping regulations.
- Monitor 7 wholesale fish dealers, 9 commercial fishermen, 28 LK Michigan Sport Trollers, 24 guides, 20 taxidermists, & conservatively 100 other permits tied to the county.
- Environmental & Water regulation enforcement.
- Regulation enforcement on County owned properties (Marsh, Gerber LK, and Plank Road Trail).
- Recreational accident investigation, along with search & rescue.
- Public relations/education for outdoor recreation activities (Boat safety courses, County Fair, ~30 clubs tied to the Sheboygan County Conservation Association, civic groups, etc).
- Involved in the investigation of ~200 resource related complaints, reported annually in the county.

**2. Who is the program intended to serve? How many are served? "All that use & enjoy the County resources"**

This program annually serves county residents & numerous visitors to the County. Public & private utilization of the resources is a multi-million dollar industry within the state & county. It is difficult to measure what percentage of 110,000 county residents are utilizing Sheboygan County's many resource assets, which includes:

- 514 sq. miles land & ~700 sq. miles of Lake Michigan (~24 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline).
- 5 warm-water rivers; 23 lakes; 37 miles of trout waters; Lake Michigan and 4 tributary streams.
- More than 21,000 acres of state land including Kettle Moraine State Forest, wildlife, and fisheries areas.
- 7,400 acres of county land managed under a cooperative agreement with DNR.

**3. Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations? "Yes"**

Unfortunately, society has always required the presence of law enforcement. This Program is specialized law enforcement in outdoor recreation & resource protection. This program plays a significant role in promoting safety of the resource & resource user, both today & for future generations. The true measure of success is the public perception of feeling safe while enjoying the resources. Utilizing & preserving these resources for the future.

**4. Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department? If so, how? "The only program in this department"**

Within the county framework, this program primarily interacts with:

- Sheriff Department (Radio equipment, assistance requests, joint law enforcement projects).
- Planning & Resource Department (Water Regulations, Zoning, enforcement aspect of Marsh management).
- Courthouse staff & support services (Law enforcement prosecution).

**5. How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship? "Serving & protecting the public reflects well on all county government"**

Laws are enacted to manage people & issues throughout society. This program is an education & enforcement agent for the county resources & resource users. One example is enforcement efforts on the Sheboygan Marsh.

**6. How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented? "The public perception of their resources & safety"**

"I feel safe taking the kids fishing at the Marsh." This Program contributes to decreasing/minimizing the number of recreation crashes/incidents within the County. Public attitude. Reducing user conflicts & complaints. Improvement in general appearance of public & private properties – Decrease garbage sites, shot up signs, etc.

**7. Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program? "No"**

Statutory restrictions specified under WI Statute 23.10 & County Ordinance Chapter 31 (Appointed/funded by the County & DNR supervision). Position requires that the employee be a DOJ/DNR Certified WI Law Enforcement officer. Hiring freeze, wage, decreasing pool of qualified candidates contribute to the program's long running 3 vacancies.

**8. State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all programs in your department and briefly explain. Not applicable. Only program within this department.**

**9. Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community? Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers? "Yes, to a limited degree"**

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Plymouth Service Center). Currently 2 full-time Conservation Wardens are assigned to Sheboygan County. Since 2001:
  - Zero funding available to hire part-time staff for ATV, Snowmobile, or Fish & Game enforcement.
  - Allotted ~150 hours funding annually, to hire part-time staff for Boating enforcement (Contingent on continued Federal funding).
- Sheriff Department Municipal ATV, Boat, & Snowmobile Patrols (WI DNR reimbursement, ~65%).
- Elkhart Lake Police Department Municipal Boat Patrol, on Rhine TWSP lakes (WI DNR Reimbursement, ~65%).
- Municipal Patrols are reimbursed at their officers' hourly wage (\$22.00-28.00/hour).
- Realistically, alternative providers are strapped to meet the primary workload responsibilities of their respective agencies. Doubt these alternative providers have the manpower & fiscal budget to take on this program.

**10. If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)? "A guarded guess, anticipating negative ramifications"**

Save \$27,737.00. Decreased protection of the resources & resource users. This may result in higher number of recreation crashes/incidents & user conflicts/complaints. One doesn't want to be a pessimist. However, numerous evaluations of law enforcement presence & public safety have been published in the past. The two go hand in hand. Decreased law enforcement efforts results in decreased compliance & public perception of safety. This program has always received the support of the Sheboygan County Conservation Association.

**11. What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)**

50 years ago, the County Board had the foresight to create this program. Over the past 30 years, the investment in this program has ranged from \$0 - \$43,000.00. This is a relatively inexpensive 2005 Budget program (\$27,737.00). The DNR has mandated and provided the County Wardens with DNR sponsored training without registration or tuition fees. The County Wardens use the DNR equipment assigned to the Plymouth Service Center (i.e. ATV, boats, snowmobiles, vehicles, & other equipment; and clerical staff). Program supervisors have always tried to spend other DNR funds, before tapping the program budget. Staff provide some personal equipment (i.e. vehicle, firearm, & cell phone minutes). This arrangement has worked fairly smoothly for the past 25 years. At this point in time, I would hesitate to alter the day to day operation of this program.

At full staff and maximum wage budget, there is ~1750 hours of effort/year. We believe County residents are reaping a good return for the investment in this program. The part time staff promotes safe outdoor recreation and protection of the natural resources, in the County. I believe this is one of the few programs a person will find that is mutually beneficial to the DNR, Sheboygan County, and the public enjoying the natural resources of this county.

**12. Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community? "Yes, to a limited degree"** Municipal Patrols are staffed by good officers, but cover only a portion of the enforcement responsibilities of the County Warden program. The County residents are reaping a good return for the investment in the County Warden program. The following data is taken from WI DNR Municipal Patrol reimbursement records:

Municipality	Year	Claim	Reimbursed	Patrol hrs	Total hrs	Wage	
Elkhart Lake PD Boat	2002	\$11,643	~62-67%	404	617	\$12.50-20.18	
	2003	\$9,684	"	315	455	"	
	2004	\$9,802	"	292	385	"	
Sheriff Dept Boat	2002	\$23,325	"	448	641	\$20.65-25.89	
	2003	\$10,386	"	115	250	"	
	2004	\$13,798	"	239	392	"	
	ATV	02/03	\$1,116	100%	32	37	"
		03/04	\$1,737	"	51	57	"
		04/05	Pending	"			"
Snowmobile	02/03	\$1,533	"	40	50	"	
	03/04	\$5,061	"	106	146	"	
	04/05	Pending	"			"	