



# LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed expenditures of \$610,303 in 2019 represent an 11.9% increase from 2018. Revenues are proposed at \$402,817. The proposed levy is \$207,486 up \$68,735 or 49.5%.

Every year the bottom line of revenue and expenditures fluctuates depending on the timing of reimbursement requests with multiple grants and agreements; a majority of the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) budget.

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The Preliminary bonding fund levels for staff in 2018/2019 were decreased by \$1,126 (1%). The good news was in 2018 the department received \$14,950 (24%) more for Cost-Share Project funds, and \$31,600 (79%) more for nutrient management funds. Although there is a slight decrease (1%) in Staff funds, and slight decrease (4%) in Project funds, the state has stabilized our DATCP funds for the following year. At this point last year, we were facing a 10-15% cut across the board but the lobbying efforts by the county, and the WI Land and Water Organization worked to restore those dollars.

**Final Staffing 2018 = \$109,813**

**Final Nutrient Management 2018 = \$40,000**

**Final Project Funding 2018 = \$63,750**

**Staffing 2019 = \$108,687**

**NMP 2019 = \$40,000**

**Project Funding 2019 = \$60,900**

## DATCP STAFFING AND COST SHARE GRANTS

State staffing and cost-share grants continue to fall significantly short to support the full LWCD financial needs. The state has yet to fulfill their own obligations financially to the county for fully funding one position at 100%, one at 70%, and one at 50%. Currently, LWCD receives funding for approximately 1.4 full time staff, or 45%. Final 2018 DATCP funding for LWCD staff and support is \$109,813; an increase of \$2,450. Cost-share assistance for landowners and municipalities is \$63,750, an increase of \$14,950; and nutrient management cost-sharing is \$40,000 and increase of \$31,600 up from 2017.

## GREAT LAKES COMMISSION GRANT

In conjunction with Northland College, LWCD are in a joint project to restore a large bluff site on Fish Creek from 2014-2018. The department received \$39,117 from this grant to construct 8 wetland basins on private lands in Fish Creek, and to cover some engineering time / construction oversight. The bluff restoration was completed in August 2018, which has received a lot of Press from local media outlets and statewide. We are currently working with the Superior Rivers Watershed Association to apply for engineering funds, for 3 more bluff sites on Fish Creek, and 3 on the Marengo River, to leverage further funds for construction from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Bayfield County remains a leader in Northern Wisconsin's AIS program and is in its twelfth year, and was successful in obtaining funds totaling \$137,113, in 2016, to carry the program into the end of 2018. The year began with a balance of \$63,951 and will spend that amount down to approximately \$0 by years end 2018. The department is working with WDNR to fund AIS activities at ½ time position over the next 3 years, and the other ½ position as a county funded Lake Conservation Specialist. This would cost the county approx.\$35,000 annually, as well as

the AIS grant approximately \$35,000 annually. The other option is to apply for full time AIS funding for 2019-2020, another approximately \$135,000 application, which would be the 6<sup>th</sup> large AIS application through WDNR.

### **NORTHWOODS COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (NCWMA)**

A new coordinator was hired in November 2017, which has been successful leveraging additional funds from the USFS and the WDNR to fund the position and program. LWCD started 2018 with remaining revenues of \$26,858 of USFS funds for the weed co-op, which was successful acquiring another \$40,000 USFS grant received July of 2018, and \$13,710 from WDNR for garlic mustard treatments. Current funds and new and new grant dollars total \$64,940 in revenues for fall of 2018 into 2019.

### **WILDLIFE ABATEMENT PROGRAM**

Beginning revenues for 2018 were \$36,842, which will be reduced to \$35,824, a decrease of \$1,018, or 2.7%. LWCD will still receive the same service as the other counties. The \$1,018 decrease is a reduction of bear relocation fees for the overall program, all other funds in the program are the same as previous years.

### **2018 LWCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Successfully fulfilled our part of the Great Lakes Commission Grant, installing the 8 required wetland restoration / WASCORB retention basins. Bluff restoration occurred in August 2018 to complete the 4 year project.
- We applied for, and received more DATCP Bond Cost share dollars, and Nutrient Management dollars that previous years, and received both. \$14,950 more project dollars, and \$31,600 NMP dollars on the ground this year.
- Nutrient Management Acres with 3 new farmers in 2018, totaling 700 additional acres in the program, most acres ever in one year in the history of Nutrient Mgt Planning.
- Completed large bank stabilization on the White River, preventing several tons of material entering the river / Chequamegon Bay annually.
- Stabilized a severely eroded bank on Chequamegon Bay near the mouth of Whittlesey Creek.
- 3 new Manure Pit Abandonment Projects this year.
- Actively working with 12 farmers in Bayfield County on a great variety of projects; more now to date that ever before.
- Assisted the townships of Mason, Delta, Pilsen, Keystone, Oulu, and Grandview assessing road / culvert damage, developing estimates for FEMA, and working with the towns and WDNR on consensus on permitting, culvert sizing, documentation, etc. Also currently working with BC Forestry on solutions and estimates for construction to fix the old county owned dump site in Delta south of County Highway H.
- Completed the new Bayfield County Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Successful in allocating all DATCP bond funds under contract by years end 2018.

## 2019 LWCD GOALS

- The creation of a county funded Lake Conservation Specialist for the department, which would be a new, and much needed position to assist lakeshore owners and lake associations acquire funding for lake mgt. plans, shoreline stabilization projects, shoreline mitigation sites, and continue the Aquatic Invasive Species Program.
- Completion of the new 10-Year Land and Water Resource Management Plan and achieve approval with the State Land and Water Board.
- Secure additional funding for the NCWMA program, and USFWS private lands funds for fish and wildlife enhancement projects throughout the county.
- Cooperate with Superior Rivers Watershed Association on successful grant applications for additional bluff engineering projects on Fish Creek and Marengo River; secure funds for construction in 2019-2020.
- Build new relationship with the farm producer that owns the biggest bluff failure on North Fish Creek. Fencing the cattle out of the bluff area, and other on farm practices could be the beginning to restoring the largest bluff in the watershed.

## LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Fred Strand (Chair)  
 Marty Milanowski (Vice Chair)  
 Dave Zepczyk  
 Tom Snilsberg  
 Peter Tetzner, Citizen Representative  
 Melissa Netz, FSA Representative

## FIVE-YEAR TREND | 2014 - 2018

YEAR	LWCD GRANTS	STAFF / SUPPORT	BOND	SEG	REVENUE GRAND TOTAL
2014	\$ 360,883	\$ 109,461	\$ 55,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 539,344
2015	\$ 477,889	\$ 113,996	\$ 52,000	\$ 5,600	\$ 649,485
2016	\$ 264,661	\$ 108,794	\$ 62,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 443,855
2017	\$ 183,353	\$ 107,363	\$ 48,800	\$ 8,400	\$ 347,916
2018	\$ 198,034	\$ 109,813	\$ 63,750	\$ 40,000	\$ 411,597
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,484,820</b>	<b>\$ 549,427</b>	<b>\$ 281,550</b>	<b>\$ 76,400</b>	<b>\$ 2,497,948.00</b>

Our Mission: *To assist the public in protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural resources of Bayfield County*