

Sauk County, Wisconsin
Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department Annual Report

2017 Highlights:

- Awarded a 2nd RCPP Grant of nearly \$1.1 million to continue our efforts in the Baraboo River Watershed. (Still needs to be accepted by the CPZ Committee and Board of Supervisors.)
- Sauk County 2018 Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan was approved by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board.
- Opening of Phase I of the Great Sauk State Trail.
- Commenced Sauk County Solar Group Buy Program working with Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA).
- Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department created a Facebook page.

2017 Goals Review

2017 GOALS REVIEW

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2017?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Annual monitoring of the farmland preservation plan to ensure DATCP compliance.	Yes – Ongoing
Complete a comprehensive revision of the County Land Division and Subdivision Regulations Ordinance (Chapter 22).	No. Draft revisions complete, full revision and adoption to take place in 2018.
Implementation of the Placemaking Initiative	Yes
Monitor and update the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 7) as needed	Yes - Ongoing. Changes were identified that needed to be addressed in Chapter 7 during 2017. Draft amendments completed with adoption to take place in 2018.
Update the Uniform Citation Ordinance as it relates to Chapter 7, Chapter 25 and Chapter 22.	Yes – Ongoing.
Provide planning assistance to other county departments and committees.	Yes – Ongoing.
Provide planning assistance to the Great Sauk Trail - Tier 1 Construction process	Yes.
Complete process of entering/scanning planning and zoning related and BOA records into new computer tracking system.	This department hired an LTE to work on this project, as well as others. To be completed in 2018.
Provide planning assistance to the Baraboo River Corridor Plan / Baraboo-Reedsburg implementation.	Yes - Ongoing
Complete the Land and Water Resource Management Plan	Yes. Adopted in 2017.
Assist in the development of special purpose planning processes and studies that further the goals and implementation efforts of local comprehensive plans.	
Organize and administer annual Clean Sweep event(s) to dispose of hazardous materials.	Yes. Continue as a goal in 2018.

2017 GOALS REVIEW

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2017?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Maintain and assess the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program.	Yes. Continue as a goal in 2018. Would like to increase the program.
Continue intergovernmental cooperative efforts with local municipalities in order to apply shoreline and flood plain regulations.	Yes – Ongoing.
Provide at least four school programs to educate youth and promote awareness of natural resources.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Implement the established complaint driven enforcement of the County's Manure Management Ordinance (Chapter 26)	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Provide a minimum of two youth and adult environmental education activities in the county.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Promote and support initiatives to reduce and eliminate problematic populations of invasive species.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Work with the Mapping and MIS Departments to ensure that all pertinent Departmental information and resources are accessible via the County's web site, GIS system and Granicus.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue with technology resources updates in 2018.
Monitor best practices and distribute information about Departmental resources and public educational activities through various media outlets, newsletters, and the internet.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Assist farmers with nutrient management plans and their applications.	Yes - Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Install Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) buffers along streams/wetlands/ponds/lakes.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Complete conservation evaluations for program participants in the agricultural programs.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Continue the well abandonment program.	Yes. Program concluded in 2017.
Monitor water quality to establish background information and identify resource needs.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Assist lake associations with water quality issues and report to committee	Yes – Ongoing. Continue in 2018.
Install water quality improvement projects through Land and Water Resource Management, Baraboo River RCPP and other grant programs.	Yes - Ongoing. Continue in 2018.

Changes / Accomplishments:

In March 2017, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors approved a repeal and recreate of Sauk County Chapter 26 Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management Ordinance. The ordinance incorporates state agricultural performance standards and enforcement procedures for all unincorporated areas of Sauk County. Although the ordinance outlines enforcement procedures for producers found to not be meeting the performance standards, state statutes require an offer of 70% cost share before a producer can be required to meet the standard. Full countywide compliance of this ordinance will require additional funding for staff and practice installation. Non-Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) participants, complaints received by staff, sites

identified through the 2016 and 2017 countywide farm inventory, and sites identified as highly vulnerable to soil erosion via the EVAAL model are currently being prioritized for implementation of the ordinance.

In 2015, the department was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the USDA-NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to producers in the Baraboo River Watershed over 5 years. Financial assistance is provided to producers to install conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and reduce agricultural runoff to surface and groundwater. The department and other partners provide technical assistance to producers in the watershed through one-on-one meetings and outreach and educational events. At the end of 2017, the financial assistance had been fully exhausted – two years earlier than anticipated. In December 2017, the department was notified that it will be awarded a second grant of nearly \$1.1 million to continue the efforts in the Baraboo River Watershed starting in 2018.

Since 1979, the Wisconsin Fund Grant program has provided Sauk County land owners over \$3,600,000 in state assistance for replacing failing septic systems. This grant program works in conjunction with the Department's state mandated septic maintenance program. This program works successfully with over 11,000 private onsite wastewater systems in Sauk County. After 2019 the State will no longer offer the grant for failing septic systems and the Department will need to consider alternatives in working with property owners to continue to the success in the replacement of failing septic systems and addressing the public health and safety risks these system can cause.

Converting land into rotational managed grazing has been a practice that department staff have assisted producers with in the past; however, the number of acres converted in 2017 skyrocketed to just over 600 acres and is anticipated to increase again in 2018. Financial assistance from state and county funding sources is provided to producers to install grazing infrastructure such as fences, waterlines, and pasture grass mixes. Technical assistance is provided through grazing management plans that help the producer determine paddock sizes, forage needed, and sustainable stocking rates. The great success seen in 2017 can be related to staff dedicating many hours of outreach and educational events such as field days and pasture walks and one-on-one interactions with farmers. Staff also started to present basic farm enterprise budgeting in order to credibly document and discuss the economics and profitability of rotational grazing over other management systems. Staff also organized a number of pasture walks as well as a grazing workshop in June 2017 featuring Dr. Allen Williams, an internationally renowned grazing expert, as the keynote speaker. Many producers in attendance were able to incorporate the tools presented at the workshop to their operations. These events also help to encourage networking and relationship building amongst producers and often times side conversations become just as valuable as the information being presented.

In 2016, a rainfall simulator was purchased by the department to demonstrate the impacts of severe rainfall events on different land uses. This was a new tool in the toolbox for department staff to encourage different conservation practices that prevent soil loss and increase water infiltration including no-till and reduced tillage, rotational grazing, and cover crops. In 2017, the rainfall simulator was featured at youth conservation day events, the Sauk County Dairy Breakfast, Sauk County Fair, Lake Fair, pasture walks, and other field days. The response has been incredible by

producers and can be attributed to the increase in rotational grazing and no-till practices in the county.

In October 2017, the Sauk County 2018 Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan was approved by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board. The LWRM plan is a guide that is used to determine where conservation efforts should be prioritized over the next ten years. Additionally, the plan is required by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for the department to receive staffing and conservation funding grants.

On October 19, 2017 Sauk County cut the ribbon at a grand opening for the Prairie du Sac / Sauk City Unit of the Great Sauk State Trail. This 5.17 mile paved trail is the first phase of three phases to construct a recreational trail from Dane County to Devil’s Lake State Park. Participating in the event were the cabinet secretaries from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources, the County Board Chair and the CPZ Department Senior Planner. The trail is also recognized by the DNR as, “Wisconsin’s newest state trail” and with the state trail designation will be utilized by Sauk County as part of and to further the placemaking initiative. Since the trail’s construction, businesses are investing in upgrades and developing trail side access, particularly in the hospitality sector. The trail has also been selected by the Rails to Trails Conservancy as one of the, “Nine Hot New Rail-Trails in 2017” in the Nation. Why It’s Hot: It will connect to Devil’s Lake State Park and eventually the Elroy-Sparta Trail via the 400 Trail.

The Department continues to invest resources in the Baraboo River corridor planning initiative, which is a partnership between the Villages of North Freedom, West Baraboo, City of Baraboo and Sauk County that, “Focusses on opportunities that will spur recreation, tourism and development to establish the region as THE premiere water recreation destination in south central Wisconsin.” The initiative considers many factors to turn the Baraboo River into a tourism focal point, but more particularly will address water quality improvement and specific implementation ideas such as a white water course in downtown Baraboo and a, ‘peddle-paddle’ concept to coincide with a the continued development of the Great Sauk State Trail. While this initiative is still in its infancy, there is phenomenal interest such that communities all along the Baraboo River in Sauk County not only want to join the initiative, but are willing to contribute funds, just as Sauk County’s Economic Development Committee recently did. Since the Baraboo River crosses county boundaries, Juneau County has also expressed interest in joining. What comes from this initiative remains to be seen, but the first ingredient to any success is interest and financial support, which are both present. The initiative is also very timely as it can both inform and participate as a partner project to the County’s Placemaking initiative and continued planning for the Great Sauk State Trail.

Statistical Summary:

OUTPUT MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL
Subdivision Plats and Certified Survey Maps (CSMs) approved	2 plats /74 CSM’s \$1,3600 / \$7,880	0 plats /81 CSM’s \$0 / \$7,120	4 plats/82 CSM’s \$1,620/\$8,740

OUTPUT MEASURES

Planned Rural Development (PRD) (Lots, agricultural acres converted, and acres protected)	PRD lots: 24 Total participating acres: 1082.11 PRD lot acres: 80.87 Active Ag Acres converted: 15.14 5% allowance: 54.10 (under by 38.96 acres) \$8,950	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 702.24 PRD Lot Acres: 59.89 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 22.64 5% allowance: 35.10 under by 7.5 \$5,500	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 637.11 PRD Lot Acres: 37.97 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 17.75 5% allowance: 31.85 under by 14.10 \$8.500
Conditional Use Permit (CUP) (Land Use)	23 permits \$9,750	21 permits \$10,250	22 permits \$10,000
Conditional Use Permit (Exclusive Agricultural (EA) Zoning Dwelling)	6 permits \$500	5 permits \$500	2 permits \$200
Land Use Issued	404 permits \$103,667	416 permits \$114,273	402 permits \$100,246
Sanitary Permits Issued	185 permits \$71,450	175 permits \$66,350	158 permits \$66,900
Code Enforcement Citations	20 citations \$2,458.31	61 citations \$1,154.02	31 citations \$1,077
Wisconsin Fund Grant Awards / Grant Amount	12 / \$49,835	12 / \$26,264	6 / \$28,075
Septic System Maintenance Verifications	4,117 reported \$70	5,369 reported \$100	4,495 reported \$40
Non Metallic Mining Reclamation Program - Total Sites/Total Acres	32 / 2400 ac	\$31,750	\$32,440
Board of Adjustment Hearings/ Total Appeals			

OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL
Soil Test / Septic Closing On-site Inspections	145 Soils Onsite Verifications / 161 Septic	158 Soils Onsite Verifications / 157 Septic	152 Soils Onsite Verifications / 140 Septic

OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

	Closing Inspections	Closing Inspections	Closing Inspections
Board of Adjustment (BOA) Inspections	43 Board of Adjustment Inspections / Follow Ups	38 Board of Adjustment Inspections / Follow Ups	41 Board of Adjustment Inspections / Follow Ups
Shoreland Zoning Inspections	97 Shoreland Zoning Inspections	109 Shoreland Zoning Inspections	158 Shoreland Zoning Inspections
Quarry / Blast Inspections	38 Quarry Blast Monitoring / Inspections	47 Quarry Blast Monitoring / Inspections	67 Quarry Blast Monitoring / Inspections
Code Enforcement Complaint/Follow up Inspections	152 Code Enforcement or Complaint Inspections	225 Code Enforcement or Complaint Inspections	177 Code Enforcement or Compliant Inspections
Planned Rural Development (PRD) (Lots, agricultural acres converted, and acres protected	PRD lots: 24 Total participating acres: 1082.11 PRD lot acres: 80.87 Active Ag Acres converted: 15.14 5% allowance: 54.10 (under by 38.96 acres)	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 702.24 PRD Lot Acres: 59.89 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 22.64 5% allowance: 35.10 under by 7.5	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 637.11 PRD Lot Acres: 37.97 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 17.75 5% allowance: 31.85 under by 14.10

OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2017 ACTUAL
Assist with planning & installation of cropland practices Complete landscape surveys/inventories Provide soil health assessments on farms	1,254.5 Acres Cover Crops Installed 89 Acres No-till Installed 6,776.58 Acres NMP Installed 2.15 Acres Grassed Waterways Installed 81 Acres contour strips installed 1 Landscape Surveys/inventories completed (EVAAL & Transect Survey) 3 soil health assessments completed
Assist with planning & installation of livestock practices	8 stream crossings installed 601 Acres converted to managed grazing 0 livestock watering facility installed 61,507 feet livestock pipeline installed 124,027 feet livestock fencing installed 1 roof runoff system installed

	2 manure storage facility closures
Install streambank/shoreline protection Sample water quality of streams and rivers Assist with planning & installation of CREP buffers Decommission abandoned wells	5,558 linear feet streambank/shoreline protection installed 13 of streams sampled 47,033 linear feet CREP buffers installed 4 wells decommissioned
Organize annual county tree sale Install instream habitat practices	11,000 trees sold 183 instream structures installed
Enroll participants in Baraboo River RCPP project	23 landowners enrolled
Review manure storage facility construction and closure plans and issue permits	4 construction permits issued 1 closure permits issued
Complete farm inspections to determine compliance with state soil and water conservation standards for FPP and LWRM participants and Chapter 26	137 FPP inspections completed 24 LWRM inspections completed 14 Chapter 26 inspections completed
Host tours, field days, and workshops for farmers and landowners; provide conservation education programs youth, and outreach communications for the public.	8 tour/field days hosted, 113 contacts 9 workshops organized, 212 contacts 13 youth programs hosted, 1,107 contacts 1 newsletters published, 3,592 contacts 14 press releases published 49 social media posts 25 Presentations, 1,030 attendees
Organize Clean Sweep events so the public can properly dispose of hazardous waste.	2 events organized, 1,064 participants 65,000 Lbs. waste collected 82,364 Lbs. electronics collected
Organize Ag Plastics events so farmers can properly dispose of used plastic.	6 events organized, 74 participants 21.61Tons collected

MEASURABLE OUTPUT	2015	2016	2017
Practices installed	70	86	138
Tons Soil Saved	2,005.09	2,104.11	2,654.26
# Phosphorus reduced	2,807.13	3,421.96	6,095.10
Gallons water infiltrated	Not measured	Not measured	62,006,880.99