

## **Section 3: Goals, Objectives and Actions**

### **Public and Agency Input**

Throughout the planning process several agencies and groups have been given the opportunity to provide input regarding the goals, objectives, and actions, they are: Crawford County Land Conservation Committee and staff, USDA-NRCS Field Office staff, USDA-FSA staff, the WI-DNR Forestry staff, the UWEX Ag/Resource Agent, Crawford County Planning Committee and other local groups and agencies.

#### County Planning Committee

- The Crawford County Planning Committee and County Comprehensive Planning process was utilized as a way to gain public involvement in the LWRM plan revision process. As the Crawford County Comprehensive Plan was developed, public input meetings were also utilized to gain input on the County's land and water resources. These meetings took place between the November 2008 and January 2010.

#### Land Conservation Committee:

- The Committee reviewed past goals, objectives and actions at its March 2010 meeting and based on public input from the comprehensive planning process discussed revisions. At its April 2010 meeting the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) revised goals, objectives and actions were reviewed and approved in draft form. The draft goals, objectives and actions were then forwarded to USDA-NRCS Field Office staff, USDA-FSA staff, the WI-DNR Forestry staff, the UWEX Ag/Resource Agent, and other local groups and agencies for comments.

#### Land Conservation Staff:

- Throughout the LWRM plan review process staff provided input and assisted with updating information.

#### USDA-NRCS Staff

- Sent draft of revised plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Continued contact throughout review process.

#### WI-DNR Forestry staff

- Sent draft of revised plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Continued contact throughout review process.

#### UWEX Staff

- Sent draft of revised plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Continued contact throughout review process.

#### WI – DNR Planning Staff

- Sent draft plan to West Central DNR planning staff and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.

### **LWRM Plan Goals, Objectives and Actions**

Goals, objectives and actions have been developed for the Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management plan based on information gathered and public input. Goals are meant to be general statements that the Land Conservation Department/Committee desires to achieve through implementation of the LWRM plan. Following each goal are objectives and actions which have been identified as steps to achieve the plan goals. The goals developed fall under six categories that address protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural resources of Crawford County.

### ***Category 1 - Soil Erosion***

Crawford County experienced significant erosion through the early 1900's. Upland cropland erosion has been addressed in the county since the early 1950's. The county's topography makes managing soil erosion difficult. Crawford County has seen a significant increase in the amount of corn and soybeans grown since the 1990's, and a decrease in the amount of hayland during the same period. One of the principal reasons for the change is a decrease in the number of dairy farms.

The Crawford County Soil Erosion Control Plan estimated the county wide average cropland erosion rate at 3.2 tons/acre/year. The county average tolerable soil loss limit is 2.0 tons/acre/year. A large number of farmers have adopted contour strip cropping and/or reduced tillage or no-till planting. Excessive summer rains of 2004, 2007 and 2008 in Crawford County have caused widely noticed sheet, rill, and gully erosion. More waterways and effective use of good ground cover and contour strips are needed.

#### THE 2004 SOIL EROSION TRANSECT SURVEY SHOWED THE FOLLOWING SOIL EROSION RATES IN EACH WATERSHED

WATERSHED	CROPLAND ACRES	TOTAL SOIL LOSS (TONS/YR)	AVERAGE EROSION RATE (T/AC/YR)
RUSH CREEK	27,946	101,505	3.8
MILVILLE CREEK	10,324	34,381	3.3
LOWER KICKAPOO RIVER	22,428	61,482	2.9
REEDS & TAINTER CREEK	18,334	37,186	2.8
KNAPP CREEK	18,868	49,885	1.7

Crawford County has conducted a countywide transect survey yearly since 1999. The transect survey's goals are:

1. Provide the county and the state with statistically reliable data needed to update their "T by 2000" goals.
2. Verify the need for additional funding to put in Best Management Practices.
3. Document the "T by 2000" progress being made by the county.
4. Document trends in soil erosion and land use.

The county continues to conduct the survey annually to monitor changes. The county will also document soil loss through the USDA NRCS field office progress reports. Cropland soil losses are tracked electronically before and after practices are applied.

It is important that soil erosion issues on land other than croplands is also addressed. Some additional sources of soil erosion are stream banks, overgrazed pastures, logging roads, access roads, driveways, and roadsides. The eroded soil from such uses ends up in the streams and rivers of Crawford County as sediment. Sediment carries nutrients, which affect the water quality. These sources are difficult to inventory and need to be addressed on a case by case basis. Education is needed to prevent erosion versus continually repairing damage.

Several agencies will be involved in the implementation of the action plans, they are: Crawford County Land Conservation staff, USDA-NRCS Field Office staff, USDA-FSA staff, the WI-

DNR Forestry staff, the UWEX Ag/Resource Agent, and local conservation clubs and organizations.

## **Goal 1 Maintain soil erosion on all cropland to “T”.**

### **Objective A**

Track average soil loss in Crawford County and maintain soil erosion to “T” tolerable soil loss limit on all cropland.

#### **Actions:**

1. Complete transect survey yearly and evaluate data.
2. Maintain computer database.
3. Compare aerial photos from different years.
4. Provide Farmland Preservation plans to landowners.

### **Objective B**

Inform and educate landowners on conservation practices.

#### **Actions:**

1. Identify absentee landowners.
2. Develop and provide a model rental contract with soil erosion prevention items in it.
3. Assemble information on conservation programs, practices, and agencies to provide to landowners.
4. Work one-on-one with landowners as they call or stop in.
5. Develop a postcard for realtors and title companies to give to new landowners at the time of land transaction with the phone number of who to contact about programs.

### **Objective C**

Reduce soil erosion to “T” tolerable soil loss limit on all cropland.

#### **Actions:**

1. Plan and treat crop fields to tolerable soil loss levels or less.
2. Provide technical assistance to landowners to install crop contour strips and contour buffer strips.
3. Promote no-till, zone-till, and reduced tillage systems.
4. Encourage landowners that crop fields of 18% or steeper slopes to use less intensive cropping practices.

### **Objective D**

Provide examples of good conservation ethics to landowners.

#### **Actions:**

1. Provide educational articles to the media.

## **Goal 2 Reduce erosion on land other than cropland.**

### **Objective A**

Inform loggers and excavators on how to properly build driveways, logging roads, and access roads in an effort to reduce soil erosion.

#### **Actions:**

1. Assist Southwest Badger RC&D in holding a workshop to demonstrate to loggers and other excavators the proper construction of logging and access roads that minimize erosion.
2. Discuss at the Crawford/Richland County Contractor Workshop construction and/or repair of logging and access roads and driveways.
3. Provide technical assistance to landowners on proper construction, repair, and maintenance of driveways, logging roads, and access roads.
4. Work with towns to educate them on the need to develop and enforce a driveway ordinance.

5. Work with one town per year on mulching the soil surface roadsides when working on roadsides and new roadways.

**Objective B**

Inform landowners on methods to prevent erosion on land other than cropland.

**Actions:**

1. Encourage landowners to work with DNR Foresters on developing a logging contract for their property to prevent and control soil erosion during and after timber sale.
2. Promote intensive rotational grazing practices and provide technical assistance.
3. Encourage Southwest Badger RC&D to continue the “Selling Timber Smart” workshops.

**Objective C**

Increase riparian areas protected.

**Actions:**

1. Work with FSA and NRCS to enroll areas of stream corridor in CRP as riparian buffers.
2. Provide landowners brochures on the CRP buffer initiative.

**Goal 3 Increase money available for cost-sharing to install practices to prevent erosion.**

**Objective A**

Assist landowners in signing up for cost-share programs

**Actions:**

1. Work with landowners to sign up for the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program CREP, and continuous CRP.
2. Work with landowners to sign up for the state forest landowner grant program for logging road repair.

**Objective B**

Provide more cost-share funding.

**Actions:**

1. Apply to state for Land and Water Management Grant money to provide more cost share dollars.
2. Apply to state for other grant funding as it becomes available.
3. Work with southwest Badger RC&D to look for private sources of money.
4. Apply for grants from private sources.
5. Apply for grant money for demonstration projects.
6. Work with wildlife groups to pursue grants.
7. Investigate sources of local funding.

***Category 2 - Water Resources***

Water resources are extremely important to Crawford County’s economic vitality and the quality of life residents enjoy. An abundant supply of clean water (groundwater and surface water) is a necessity in order for agriculture, forestry, tourism and recreational uses to continue to be key elements of the local economy. Public input throughout the planning process stressed the importance of the water resources to landowners and the goals for water resource protection and enhancement reflect the public’s sentiments.

**Goal 1 Preserve, protect and enhance surface and groundwater integrity, quality, and supply.**

**Objective A**

Inform and educate landowners (both rural and urban), on the proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides and on methods to prevent chemicals, sediment, and other contaminants from reaching rivers and streams.

**Actions:**

1. Provide brochures explaining proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides.
2. Continue the pesticide applicator training program.
3. Outside the Manure Management Ordinance jurisdiction develop a 590EZ Plan that will encourage landowners to use manure management.
4. Encourage UWEX to initiate a call in radio show to discuss proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides on lawns and gardens.
5. Apply for education grants.
6. Provide information on radio and in newspaper on preventing urban runoff.
7. Stencil storm drains with "Dump no waste. Drains to river"
8. Provide hands on experience for school children relating to stream rehabilitation.
9. Encourage children to talk to their parents about stream health.

**Objective B**

Reduce the potential of ground water pollution from improperly constructed and mismanaged manure storage structures.

**Actions:**

1. Inform owners and operators of mismanaged systems to explain a better way of managing their systems.
2. Provide technical assistance to landowners of manure storage.

**Objective C**

Reduce groundwater pollution from direct conduits to groundwater.

**Actions:**

1. Develop a mechanism for distribution of educational materials on sinkholes, well abandonment, septic systems, and underground tanks.
2. Provide technical assistance on well abandonment and sinkhole protection.
3. Encourage landowners to sign up for EQIP for well abandonment and sinkhole protection.

**Objective D**

Reduce sediment delivery from erosion sources.

**Actions:**

1. Implement NR 151 strategy.
2. Utilize available funding sources to cost share Best Management Practices.
3. Encourage landowners to sign up for cost share funds and proven technical assistance for installation of Best Management Practices.
4. Invite the public to a stream bank demonstration project along County streams to review the following:
  - Installation of rock rip rap.
  - Installation of Lunger structures.
  - Installation of a stream crossing.
5. Invite the public to a stream bank demonstration project on private property with cattle access to view the following:
  - Installation of a cattle crossing.
  - Installation of a rotational grazing system along a stream.

**Objective E**

Protect existing wetlands and increase wetlands through restoration activities.

**Actions:**

1. Encourage landowners to participate in the Federal Wetland Reserve Program.

2. Work with NRCS, US F&WS, and DNR to promote wetland restoration and the Wetland Reserve Program.
3. Inform and educate the public on what wetland restoration is and why it is done.
4. Inform and educate the public about the function and need of wetlands.

## **Goal 2 Increase funding for cost-sharing and demonstration projects.**

### **Objective A**

Increase the amount of cost-share and grant dollars available to landowners.

#### **Actions:**

1. Assist landowners applying for Federal cost-share programs.
2. Assist landowners applying for State cost-share dollars.
3. Apply for state grants when they are available.
4. Work with Southwest Badger RC&D to secure private grants.
5. Search for other financial assistance programs.
6. Work with local sports groups for financial assistance or volunteer help.
7. Work with federal and state agencies to secure funds for demonstrations.
8. Work with sports groups such as Trout Unlimited and Wisconsin Waterfowl to secure funds for demonstrations.
9. Meet yearly with partner agencies for updates and planning.
10. Obtain grants/funds for demonstration projects.

### **Objective B**

Communicate and coordinate with adjacent counties on projects.

#### **Actions:**

1. Maintain regular communication with adjoining counties LCD Directors to identify projects where cooperation would be beneficial.

## ***Category 3 - Nutrient Management***

Proper nutrient management is important to protect the natural resources of Crawford County. Improper application of manure and purchased fertilizer on farm fields and home lawns can cause pollution of groundwater and surface water. According to the NRCS District Conservationist, the amount of over application of nutrients per acre is greater for lawns and gardens than for cropland. Over application of nutrients for specific crop or lawn needs can migrate to surface water via storm water runoff. Excessive nutrients associated with organic load in surface water can cause nuisance algae blooms and decreased levels of dissolved oxygen. Crawford County wants to address nutrient management with both segments of the population.

Nitrate levels over 10.0 mg/l have been detected in some wells in Crawford County. Any amount over 10.0 mg/l exceeds state groundwater standards. At this level it is recommended that infants and pregnant women not consume the water because the nitrate interferes with the ability of blood to carry oxygen. High nitrate levels may also be an indication that other contaminants are present in the drinking water. High nitrate concentrations in the drinking water have also been linked to spontaneous abortions in livestock.

There are currently several programs involving nutrient management planning.

1. Federal Programs
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
2. State Programs
  - Nutrient and Pest Management Program
  - Land and Water Resource Management Program

3. Private Programs
  - Southwest Badger RC&D
    - Kraft Grant for nutrient Management Program

**Goal 1 Improve and protect the quality of our natural resources by the judicious and economic use of nutrients.**

**Objective A**

Inform and educate Crawford County residents on wise use of nutrients.

**Actions:**

1. Use radio advertisement, bulletins, demonstrations, and workshops to inform landowners.
2. Use county scales to calibrate manure spreaders.
3. Work with Southwest Technical College to facilitate county classes designed for landowners to write their own nutrient management plan.

***Category 4 - Land Use Planning***

Land use planning as part of comprehensive plan development has been very important for Crawford County and the towns, villages, and city. Numerous land use issues have impacted the Towns and County ranging from land fragmentation to incompatible land uses. Over the past four years Crawford County and the majority of towns, villages, and city have completed comprehensive plans. Now the municipalities are at the critical stage of implementing the vision and goals of their plans. It will be important for County departments and committees, such as the Land Conservation Department and Committee, to continue to provide planning assistance to local municipalities.

**Goal 1 Provide guidance and expertise from cooperating agencies to assist towns, villages, and cities with implementing their comprehensive plans.**

**Objective A**

Support towns, villages, and cities with the implementation of land use element goals identified in their comprehensive plans.

**Actions:**

1. Provide information and education to the local municipalities upon request.
2. Explore options for developing of a GIS system.
3. Document land use changes when doing the transect survey.

***Category 5 - Forests and Invasive Species***

Forests are a key component of Crawford County's unique landscape. Woodland's not only supply habitat for wildlife, but they provide timber for the County's logging and lumber industry. Preservation, enhancement and regeneration of forests is crucial in order to maintain wildlife habitat and an adequate supply of timber for future uses.

Invasive species continue to be a threat to forests, open lands, and the general landscape of the County. Whether it be plant, insect, or animal invasive species, they have been identified as issues necessary to address.

**Goal 1 Encourage sustainable forestry practices that protect groundwater and surface water resources.**

**Objective A**

Inform residents and loggers about the importance of sustainable forestry practices.

**Actions:**

1. Make information available regarding forest best management practices to landowners and loggers.

**Goal 2 Encourage the regeneration of forests and strive to manage invasive species and pests.**

**Objective A**

Provide opportunities for residents to practice forest regeneration.

**Actions:**

1. Continue to maintain the LCD Tree and Shrub program.
2. Provide information to residents on the WDNR State Nursery Program and the opportunity to purchase seedlings.

**Objective B**

Protect forests from invasive species and pests.

**Actions:**

1. Inform and educate landowners about the threats posed by invasive species and pests.
2. Assist local and state agencies in eliminating or controlling the spread of gypsy moths and emerald ash borers.
3. Provide information to landowners on identifying invasive plant, animal and insect species.

***Category 6 - Waste Disposal***

Proper solid waste disposal and recycling have been an issue for many years in Crawford County. Proper disposal and recycling of waste products protects the landscape and water quality. It is important that waste disposal goals and objectives be implemented in order to protect the County's natural resources.

**Goal 1 Enhance recycling practices and proper disposal of unwanted & hazardous ag waste products.**

**Objective A**

Collect/reuse recyclables.

**Actions:**

1. Hold a tire sweep periodically.
2. Encourage recycling of ag plastics (silo & bale bags) annually
3. Encourage the recycling of all size batteries.
4. Encourage paint recycling

**Objective B**

Collect and remove hazardous waste.

**Actions:**

1. Encourage collection of mercury.
2. Encourage collecting of fluorescent bulbs annually.
3. Hold a joint Household/Ag Clean Sweep annually.

