



## County Board Meeting Agenda

February 17, 2026 10:00am - 12:00pm CST

### A. Call to order and roll call

10:00am

### B. Pledge of Allegiance

### C. Opening Remarks from the County Board Chairman

### D. Verification of posting of the meeting

Agenda posted at Administration Building, Courthouse and County Website



[Feb 17 2026-County Board Agenda.pdf](#)

### E. Approval of minutes of the preceding meeting



[COUNTY BOARD - Dec 16 2025 minutes.pdf](#)

### F. Oath of Office/Election of Officers/Appointments

### G. Recognitions and Appearances

#### a. Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, WCA --Workforce Development Board Update



[Summary Document 12-1 SD and MM edits.pdf](#)



[CEO Consortium Agreement - 1-23-26 Final.pdf](#)

#### b. Carol Wirth, WPFP LLC--Phase 3 Financial Report



[County Board Report - Feb 17 2026.pdf](#)

### H. Presentation of Petitions and Proclamations

### I. Presentation of Resolutions

a. **Resolution Approving Accounts to be Carried Forward into 2026**

 [#1-2026 Resolution Approving Accounts to be Carried Forward into 2026.pdf](#)

b. **Resolution Establishing Salaries for 2023-2026 Terms of Office for Constitutional Officers**

 [#2-2026 Resolution Establishing Salaries for 2023-2026 Terms of Office for Constitutional Officers.pdf](#)

c. **Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes**

 [#3-2026 Resolution Providing for the Sale of \\$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes.pdf](#)

d. **Resolution Regarding Potential 765 kV Transmission Line Development by Dairyland Power Cooperative**

 [#4 Resolution Regarding Potential 765 kV Transmission Line Development by Dairyland Power Cooperative.pdf](#)

e. **Resolution to Adopt Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) for Submission to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**

 [Crawford County Land & Water Resource Management Plan 2027-2036.pdf](#)

 [#5 Resolution to Adopt Land & Water Resource Management Plan \(LWRM\) for Submission to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection \(DATCP\).pdf](#)

f. **Resolution Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Submit Notice of Disallowance of Claim Made Against Crawford County by Michael Strait Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §893.80**

 [20260210123421070.pdf](#)

g. **Resolution Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Submit Notice of Disallowance of Claim Made Against Crawford County by Jacob Sell Pursuant to Wis Stat. §893.80**

 [20260210123431097.pdf](#)

h. **Resolution to Approve Chief Election Officials Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area**

**J. Presentation of Ordinances**

- a. **Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Ordinances Regarding Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) and Non-Plumbing Sanitary Systems**

 [#264-2026 Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Code of Ordinances Regarding Private Onsite Wastewater Systems and Non-Plumbing Sanitary Systems.pdf](#)

**K. Presentation of Memorials**

**L. Reports of Standing Committees**

- a. **Committee Reports-ADRC; Ag & Extension; CJCC; Fair; Finance; HHSD; Hwy; Land Use; Personnel; Public Property; Public Safety; Soil & Water; Veterans**

**M. Reports of Special Committees**

**N. Presentation of motions**

**O. Communications to the Board**

- a. **Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens List**

 [20260210123603667.pdf](#)

**P. New Business**

**Q. Department Reports**

**R. Miscellaneous**

**S. Adjournment**

END  
12:00pm

**COUNTY BOARD AGENDA**  
**CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Crawford County Administration Building – Room 236**

**Join Zoom Meeting via computer, tablet, or smartphone:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89956472392?pwd=T9mQfbcEzs9hwx9MJapjzIXPkTUclA.1>

**Passcode:** 531232

**AMENDED**

- A. Call to order and roll call.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Opening remarks from County Board Chairman.
- D. Verification of posting of the meeting.
- E. Approval of minutes of the preceding meeting.
- F. Oath of Office/Election of Officers/Appointments.
- G. Recognitions and Appearances.
- 1. **Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, WCA – Workforce Development Board Update**
- 2. **Carol Wirth, WPFP LLC – Phase 3 Finance Report**
- H. Presentation of petitions and proclamations.
- I. Presentation of resolutions.
  - 1. **Resolution Approving Accounts to be Carried Forward into 2026**
  - 2. **Resolution Establishing Salaries for 2023-2026 Terms of Office for Constitutional Officers**
  - 3. **Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes**
  - 4. **Resolution Regarding Potential 765 kV Transmission Line Development by Dairyland Power Cooperative**
  - 5. **Resolution to Adopt Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) for Submission to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**
  - 6. **Resolution Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Submit Notice of Disallowance of Claim Made Against Crawford County by Michael Strait Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §893.80**
  - 7. **Resolution Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Submit Notice of Disallowance of Claim Made Against Crawford County by Jacob Sell Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §893.80**
  - 8. **Resolution to Approve Chief Election Officials Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area**
- J. Presentation of ordinances.
  - 1. **Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Ordinances Regarding Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) and Non-Plumbing Sanitary Systems**
- K. Presentation of memorials.
- L. Reports of standing committees:
  - 1. **Committee Reports – ADRC; Ag & Ext.; CJCC; Fair; Finance; HHSD; Hwy; Land Use; Personnel; Public Property; Public Safety; Soil & Water; Veterans**
- M. Reports of special committees
- N. Presentation of motions.
- O. Communications to the Board.
  - 1. **Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens List**
- P. New business.
- Q. Department reports.
- R. Miscellaneous.
- S. Adjournment.



**ROBERTA A. FISHER**  
**Crawford County Clerk**

**Any person having a disability who wishes to attend or participate may request special accommodations in keeping with the American with Disabilities Act Requirements. Any request will be kept confidential.**

**CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Cornford. Roll was called with all members present, except Supervisor Carl Orr who arrived five minutes later.

The meeting was verified as being properly posted.

The Chairman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under opening remarks, Chairman Cornford reminded Board Supervisors to submit their nomination papers by 5 p.m. on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Supervisors not seeking re-election were asked to file a Notification of Non-Candidacy by December 26<sup>th</sup>. Per Diem sheets should be turned in for 2025 by the end of this week.

**Motion by Munson, second by Kuhn to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

Ken Lucht of Watco provided a brief overview of Crawford County's involvement with the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission and the future of local rail infrastructure. The commission is a multi-county regional transportation commission, and Crawford County has been a member since the late 1970s/early 1980s as a founding county.

The commission's goal is to promote rail transportation over highway transport for heavy commodities such as grain, lumber, forest products, sand and gravel, helping reduce wear and damage to local and state roads. Approximately, 65,000 rail carloads—about 5 million gross tons—are moved by rail instead of on highways. One railcar is equivalent to four semi-trucks.

The River Rail Commission recently received nearly \$10 million in grant funding to begin replacing rail between Wauzeka and the Wisconsin River heading into Boscobel, along with an additional \$2 million grant for bridge repairs.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-2025**

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 59.14(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires and authorizes that the County Board provides for publication of its proceedings for the year 2026 in one or more

newspapers in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Finance Committee having considered the matter recommends that such publications be made in the Courier Press and the Crawford County Independent

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Board of Supervisors of Crawford County in regular session this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025, directs the County Clerk to commission Supreme Graphics to print seventy-five (75) copies published on book paper in pamphlet form the size and style as former years.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the page proofs be submitted to the County Clerk for approval before printing and said Clerk is hereby instructed not to accept any pages not printed in clear, legible type.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**Gary Koch, Chairman**  
**Wayne Jerrett**  
**Bruce Strnad**

**Gerald Krachey**  
**Greg Russell**

**Motion by Strnad, second by Gilberts to adopt the Resolution Relating to County Board Proceedings. The motion carried unanimously.**

Next up for business is the Resolution Relating to County Highway Maintenance During the Calendar Year 2026. Chairman Cornford asked for a motion to read in title only.

**Motion by Kuhn, second by Munson to read the following resolution in title only. The motion carried unanimously, and the Clerk read the follow in title only.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-2025**

**COUNTY HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

SECTION 1. The County Board of Supervisors of Crawford County, Wisconsin regularly assembled, does hereby resolve that such funds as may be made available to the County for highway work in the year 2026 under the provisions herein appropriated, shall be expended as hereinafter set forth:

**SECTION 11. COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY ALLOTMENT, WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation has notified the County Clerk that a sum of money estimated to be (\$823,712.34) eight hundred twenty-three thousand, seven hundred twelve dollars and 34 cents will become available at the end of the fiscal year under the provisions of Section 83.10 and 20.395 (1)(qb) of the Statutes, for the County Trunk Highway systems in the County, but the actual amount will not be known until the close of the fiscal year ending next June 30.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Highway Committee is authorized and directed to expend the said sum to the extent required to match and supplement Federal Aid for construction, right-of-way, and other costs on any Federal Projects located on the County Trunk Highway system of said County, which are not recovered from Federal Funds and to expend any balance from constructing, repairing and maintaining such County Trunk Highway system and bridge thereon, including snow and ice removal and control, as directed in Section 83.10 (1) of the Statutes, and to reimburse the general fund for any expenditures that may be made there from pursuant to Section 83.10 (6) of the Statutes. The distribution to such purpose is estimated, but not specifically directed to be as follows:

**SECTION 111. WHEREAS** it appears that certain additional highway improvements in the County are necessary and warranted.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Board does hereby appropriate the following sums for the purpose hereinafter set forth:

For the maintenance of the County Trunk Highway system, the sum of two million, one hundred five thousand, one hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$2,105,159.00).

For administration, including salaries, per diem, office and travel expense of the County Highway Committee, and the County Highway Commissioner, his clerks and assistants not paid from construction or maintenance funds. Also included in the administration, the expenses for Patrol Superintendent, mobile radio expenses and General Public Liability Insurance, the sum of three hundred seventy-one thousand, sixty-five dollars (\$371,065.00).

**SECTION 1V. WHEREAS**, appropriations are made herein, in addition to the amounts to be received from the State and available work in the County under Section 20.395 of the Statutes.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Board does hereby levy tax of its property in the County to meet such appropriation as follows:

For the various purposes as set forth in Section 111, hereof, the sum two million, four hundred seventy-six thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars (\$2,476,224.00).

**SECTION V. WHEREAS** the various highway activities for which provisions are made in this resolution are continuous from year to year and the exact costs of any work cannot be known at the time of making the appropriation,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Board does hereby direct that any balance remaining in any appropriation for a specific highway improvement, after the same shall have been completed, may be used by the County Highway Committee to make up any deficit that may occur in any other provisions are herein made, and any balances remaining at the end of the year in any highway fund shall remain and be available for the same purposes in the ensuing year.

**SECTION V1. WHEREAS** the exact amount of the funds that will become available from the State for highway purposes in the County under Section 20.395 of the Statutes will not be known until after next June 30.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to make payments for the purposes for which such funds are to be used, as hereinbefore authorized, from any funds in the County Treasury that are not required for the purposes for which appropriated prior to the next August 1st and to reimburse such funds in the County Treasury from the sums received under Section 20.395 of the Statutes.

**SECTION V11. WHEREAS** the County Highway Committee and the County Highway Commissioner are charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the construction and maintenance of highways for which provisions are made, and other related supervisory and administrative duties.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:**

Carl Orr, Chairman  
Derek Flansburgh  
Mark Gilberts

Bruce Strnad  
Gerry Krachey

**Motion by Krachey, second by Heilman to adopt Resolution 19-2025 Relating to County Highway Maintenance During Calendar Year 2026. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

Gary Koch, Finance Chairman, explained the next resolution to the County Board. Forest County researched the issue and adopted a resolution offering a partial solution to the tax levy freeze.

Under current law, a county may only increase its levy based on new net construction. When little or no new construction occurs, the levy remains flat, creating budget pressure that can lead to service cuts or referendums. Crawford County's 2023 new net construction rate was 1.445%, well below inflation, limiting the county's ability to keep pace with rising costs.

This resolution proposes allowing counties to use Wisconsin's Consumer Price Index (CPI) to determine the annual levy increase. It also includes a one-time adjustment based on the past five years, during which the CPI-U increased 15.8%. That adjustment would be spread over three years at 5% per year, plus the current year's CPI, with a 2% cap to ensure increases do not exceed 7% in any year.

Going forward, the resolution urges the Legislature to allow counties to increase levies by up to 3.5%, the rate of inflation, or a combination of CPI and population growth; whichever is less.

**Motion by Orr, second by Munson to allow the Clerk to read the following resolution in title only. The motion carried, and the Clerk read Resolution No. 20-2025 Urging Legislative Action to Address County Funding Challenges Under Wisconsin's Tax Levy Freeze in title only.**

## **RESOLUTION NO 20-2025**

### **RESOLUTION URGING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS COUNTY FUNDING CHALLENGES UNDER WISCONSIN'S TAX LEVY FREEZE**

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. §66.0602, enacted as part of Act 25 of the 2005-2007 biannual state budget, established the current property tax levy freeze imposed by the state, which limits Wisconsin counties, including Crawford County, by restricting annual property tax levy increases to the amount of net new construction; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, under current law, increases in property values resulting from market appreciation or countywide revaluations do not raise the total levy, and county budgets can only grow automatically in proportion to new construction, plus any adjustments for closing or amending tax incremental districts; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, if there is little or no new construction, the county's levy limit remains the same, often causing budget pressures and resulting in service cuts or referendums for additional revenue; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the current law's structure does not allow counties to keep up with inflation and rising costs, which steadily reduces their ability to fund essential operations, including public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and health and human services. These costs continue to increase each year due to inflation, workforce expenses, materials, fuel, and unfunded state mandates, ultimately leading to budget shortfalls and potential cuts in critical services, which negatively affect residents and local economies over the long term; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the current law's structure has created disparities among counties, with those experiencing low net new construction growth facing significant challenges in raising revenue for essential services. Crawford County's new net construction rate for 2023 was only 1.445%, well below the rate of inflation, limiting the county's ability to increase its levy and keep up with rising costs; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the equalized property valuation for Crawford County increased from approximately \$900 million in 2005 to \$1.5 billion in 2023, representing a growth of over 40%; yet, the county's allowable levy increase has been based solely on net new construction. This has resulted in a cumulative levy increase that is significantly lower than the growth in property values and inflation during the same period; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, relying solely on alternative funding sources such as state aid, grants, or temporary relief programs to cover budget shortfalls exposes local governments' funding to instability from sources like sales taxes or fees, state budget cycles, and political shifts; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, removing the current Levy Freeze legislation and returning to the traditional method of increasing property taxes based on valuation can cause property values to fluctuate significantly due to market conditions, leading to volatile revenue streams; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, removing the Tax Levy Freeze alone can also cause homeowners to face sudden tax spikes from increasing property assessments, even if their income stays the same; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, aligning levy growth with the actual costs of providing services and applying inflation-based adjustments to existing local governments' levy limits, as determined by an independent source such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) Midwest Region—which provides the CPI for Wisconsin—would support essential local operations while protecting taxpayers from sudden, discretionary increases. The CPI-U for the Midwest region was 2.8% for the 12 months ending August 2025; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, to better protect taxpayers from sudden spikes caused by large CPI increases related to events like recessions, it is also essential to impose a cap on how much Levy inflationary costs can increase, such as setting a 3.5% annual growth limit; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, linking the levy to a CPI-based model with a 3.5% annual cap allows revenue to accurately reflect cost pressures and ensures steady, predictable growth that keeps pace with inflation and overall economic expansion, reduces tax burdens, and avoids sharp, market-driven increases; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, predictable and capped revenue growth helps local governments plan capital projects, manage debt, and deliver services with greater confidence, thereby reducing their reliance on emergency budget adjustments. It also encourages local governments to prioritize spending, find efficiencies, and avoid dependence on volatile real estate markets; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, adopting a CPI-based levy model with a 3.5% annual cap balances funding stability and taxpayer protection, providing a sustainable alternative to mill rate volatility and assessment-driven tax swings. This approach offers transparency and reassurance to taxpayers that property taxes won't increase unpredictably, fostering trust and stability in local governance; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, aligning levy growth with actual service costs and inflation adjustments would sustain essential local functions while protecting taxpayers from abrupt, discretionary hikes; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, local governments, including counties, require sustainable and predictable revenue growth to preserve service quality and address the needs of their residents; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, shifting to a CPI-based increase model would require counties with a total net construction rate of less than 2% since the property tax levy freeze to offset their net loss compared to other counties. The proposed adjustment would be based on the last five years of the CPI-U, which totaled approximately 15.8%. It would be distributed over the first three years at a rate of 5%, plus the

current year's CPI, with a 2% cap on that figure to prevent exceeding 7% during each three-year equalization period, to account for the cumulative inflation not captured over the past 20 years; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, implementing a CPI-based system would require consistency, the allowable levy increase for all counties (in year 4 for those counties that qualify for the adjustment) shall be the lesser of 3.5 percent or the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), as certified by the Department of Revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Wisconsin Legislature to enact legislation allowing counties to increase their annual property tax levies by up to 3.5% or the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), or a combination of CPI and population growth, whichever is less; **and**,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Wisconsin Legislature will also review the counties that have not benefited from the current laws regarding new construction and TID increases as indicated by their less than 2% total new construction adjustment from 2005 to 2023. These counties will receive an equity adjustment spread over the first three years of enactment. The adjustment will be based on the last five years of the CPI-U, which was 15.8% and will be distributed across the first three years at a rate of 5%, plus the current year's CPI, with a 2% cap to prevent exceeding 7% during each of the three-year equalization periods. During this period, the counties will also increase the levy by an additional 5% for the first three years to offset the loss of CPI increases and/or total equalized property value increases over the past 20 years. In year four, these counties will revert to the standard capped CPI adjustment as outlined above; **and**,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such a statutory adjustment would provide counties with a modest but essential tool to keep pace with rising costs without imposing an undue burden on taxpayers; **and**,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Wisconsin, the leadership of the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly, our local legislative delegation, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), in support of this important legislative change.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**Gary Koch, Chairman**  
**Gerald Krachey**  
**Bruce Strnad**

**Greg Russell**  
**Wayne Jerrett**

Passed and approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

**Tom Cornford**, County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

**Motion by Orr, second by Strnad to approve and adopt the Resolution Urging Legislative Action to Address County Funding Challenges Under Wisconsin's Tax Levy Freeze. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

Kyle Kozelka, Highway Commissioner, appeared before the Board to explain the resolution approving changes to the Rural Functional Classification System in Crawford County. All roadways in the county are classified as arterial, collector, or local, based on their role in the overall transportation network.

Crawford County is primarily rural, and these classifications are used when applying for various funding sources. Each classification also carries specific design standards. WisDOT reviews and updates these classifications based on the most recent census data.

**Motion by Koch, second by Orr to allow the Clerk to read the Resolution Approving Changes to the Rural Functional Classification System in Crawford County in title only. The motion carried, and the Clerk read the following in title only.**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 21-2025**

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGES TO THE RURAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IN CRAWFORD COUNTY**

**WHEREAS** functional classification is the method by which roads and streets are categorized based on the levels of mobility and access they provide; **and**,

**WHEREAS** functional classification categories are separate for Urban and Rural areas; **and**,

**WHEREAS** geographic areas not within a designated Urban Area (UA) as designated as Rural; **and**,

**WHEREAS** rural areas, for the purposes of functional classification, are defined by county; **and**,

**WHEREAS** functional classification of a road or street has a bearing on federal transportation funding eligibility, **and**,

**WHEREAS** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and WisDOT have developed guidance for functional classification of roads and streets; **and**,

**WHEREAS** WisDOT periodically reviews and updates to the functional classification system of roads and streets throughout the state; **and**,

**WHEREAS** these recommended functional classification changes were developed through joint review by County officials and WisDOT planning staff; **and**,

**WHEREAS** these recommended changes have been reviewed by the Crawford County Highway Committee; **and**,

**WHEREAS** documents showing the recommended functional classification changes are attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; **and**,

**WHEREAS** the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will, after local approval of the recommended functional classification changes, approve the changes and submit them to

FHWA for final approval; **and**,

**WHEREAS** the approved final functional classification map will be made available to Crawford County after FHWA final approval; **and**,

**WHEREAS** the new functional classifications will supersede the existing functional classifications in Crawford County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors does hereby direct and approve all recommended functional classifications and amendments as set forth above.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

**Carl Orr**, Chairman  
**Mark Gilberts**  
**Bruce Strnad**

**Derek Flansburgh**  
**Gerald Krachey**

Passed and approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

**Motion by Krachey, second by Heilman to adopt the Resolution Approving Changes to the Rural Functional Classification System in Crawford County. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

Becky Nagel, Zoning Technician, appeared on behalf of Dave Troester, Land Conservationist, to discuss the following Ordinance.

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the water quality, the fish habitat, and the scenic beauty of Crawford County's waterways. In 2023, the DNR released an updated model Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to assist counties in remaining consistent with the statutory changes and to provide greater clarity for both local government and for the public.

At the direction of the Land Conservation Committee, staff revised Chapter 16 to closely mirror the DNR's model ordinance. The revised ordinance maintains the same building setbacks and includes all the restrictions as the existing ordinance and does not introduce any additional regulatory burdens. A required Public Hearing was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in which no public comments were received. The DNR has reviewed the drafted ordinance and provided approval.

**ORDINANCE NO 262-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RECREATING CHAPTER 16 OF THE CRAWFORD  
COUNTY ORDINANCES REGARDING  
THE SHORELAND PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

Upon recommendation of the Land Conservation, Planning and Zoning Committee, and in accordance with the standards set for in the WI DNR “Model Shoreland-Wetland Ordinance” to assure compliance with State Law, the Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

**Section I:** That Crawford County Ordinance Chapter 16 is hereby repealed and recreated to read as set forth in the Draft Ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

**Section II:** This Ordinance shall become effective from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Submitted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2025.

**LAND CONSERVATION, PLANNING & ZONING:**

**Gary Koch, Chairman  
Mary Kuhn  
Owen DuCharme**

**Kate Krachey  
Chad Sime**

Passed and approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025

**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

Published this                    day of December 2025.  
Effective this                    day of December 2025.

**Motion by DuCharme, second by Anderson to approve the Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 16 of the Crawford County Ordinances Regarding the Shoreland Protection Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.**

The Clerk explained the following Ordinance Amending, Repealing, and Recreating Sections 4.24(1)(a) and 4.28(1)(b) of the Crawford County Ordinances Relating to Paid Vacation Leave Computation and Floating Holiday Entitlement.

**Motion by Munson, second by Kuhn to allow the Clerk to read the following ordinance in title only. The motion carried unanimously, and the Clerk read the Ordinance Amending, Repealing, and Recreating Sections 4.24(1)(a) and 4.28(1)(b) of the Crawford County Ordinances Relating to Paid Vacation Leave Computation and Floating Holiday Entitlement in title only.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 263-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, REPEALING AND RECREATING SECTIONS 4.24(1)(a)  
AND 4.28(1)(b) OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY ORDINANCES  
RELATING TO PAID VACATION LEAVE COMPUTATION  
AND FLOATING HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT**

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

**Section I:** That Crawford County Ordinance Section 4.24(1)(a) is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

**“4.24 VACATIONS.**

**(1)(a)** Zero to one year: 37.5 – hour per week employees shall receive 6.25 hours for each of the first 3 months of employment and the balance of 56.25 hours thereafter (totaling no more than 75 hours) and 40 – hour per week employees shall receive 6.67 hours for each of the first 3 months of employment and the balance of 59.99 hours thereafter (totaling no more than 80 hours).”

**Section II:** That Crawford County Ordinance Section 4.28(3) is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

**“4.28 HOLIDAYS.**

**(1)(b)** All employees shall receive 2 floating holidays of their choice per calendar year. The employee must give notice to his/her Department Head at least one week in advance of any day to be used as a floating holiday. Floating holidays must be used in full one-day increments.

Employees hired before July 1<sup>st</sup> shall be entitled to 2 floating holidays in the first calendar year of employment. Employees hired on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> shall be entitled to only 1 floating holiday in the first calendar year of employment.”

**PERSONNEL:**

<b>Brad Steiner, Chairman</b>	<b>Owen DuCharme</b>
<b>Wayne Jerrett</b>	<b>Carl Orr</b>
<b>Mark Gilberts</b>	

Passed and approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

**Tom Cornford**

County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

**Roberta A. Fisher**

County Clerk

Published this        day of December 2025.  
Effective this        day of December 2025.

**Motion by Krachey, second by Heilman to approve the Ordinance Amending, Repealing, and Recreating Sections 4.24(1)(a) and 4.28(1)(b) of the Crawford County Ordinances Relating to Paid Vacation Computation and Floating Holiday Entitlement. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.**

The Chairman stated the next agenda item was reports from standing committees.

Brad Steiner, Personnel Committee Chairman, reported that the Sheriff's Department still needs to fill four jailer positions before the new Jail can open.

Derek Flasnbrugh, Public Property Committee Chairman, reported that the Custodian/Janitor position has been filled.

Linda Munson, HHSD Committee Chairman, reported that the Public Health Navigator position remains unfilled. She also provided an update on possible locations for the Scenic River Clinic.

Interviews for a new Benefit Specialist in ADRC will take place later this month.

Kozelka, Highway Commissioner, stated that discussion at the November meeting included the resolution regarding the Functional Classification System and winter maintenance on state and local highways. He also reported that two ¾-ton pickup trucks have been purchased and are expected to be delivered within the next couple of months.

Mary Kuhn, Fair Board Chairman, reported that planning for the 2026 County Fair began in October. She will be attending the Wisconsin Association of Fairs convention next month.

Gary Koch, Land Conservation Committee Chairman, reported that work is underway on a 10-year Soil and Water plan. He also noted that the committee has received a couple of livestock siting applications, which are keeping them busy.

Mary Kuhn further informed the Board that Dairyland Power is proposing a transmission line to carry electricity from the West Coast to the East Coast, with a portion running through rural Crawford County. The proposed towers would be approximately 250 feet tall, and landowners are being asked to agree to a 250-foot expanded easement.

There is concern that Dairyland Power has not been transparent about the proposed route, the reasons for the selected location, or its communication with affected landowners. A group of

landowners is seeking to pass a resolution opposing the transmission line through this rural area of Crawford County and requesting that it be located elsewhere. The Land Conservation Committee is working on a similar resolution to bring forward at the County Board meeting in February.

Mark Gilberts reported that the VSO attended the fall conference in October. It was a good conference even though there was no representation from the government because of the shutdown. The speakers that they did have provided good information and training.

Susan Hilger, Treatment Court Coordinator, appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Treatment Court program. This year, a Diversion Program was established. Contracts are now in place with Scenic Bluffs and the jail for random drug testing.

In 2025, the Treatment Court received 24 referrals, resulting in six new participants. The Diversion Program received 21 referrals, with 11 new participants enrolling this year.

The Crawford County Treatment Court has been nominated by the Department of Justice to speak at the 2026 state conference.

Nate Bremmer, Jail Transition Team, concluded the meeting with updates on the jail remodel and construction project. He has submitted an updated policy and procedure manual to the state, and his next step will be to update the inmate handbook.

**There being no further business to come before the Board, there was a motion by Krachey, second by Strnad to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.**

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
(ss)  
COUNTY OF CRAWFORD

I, Roberta A. Fisher, Clerk of County of Crawford, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors at the Regular Session on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk**

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA (WDA) 9

The Counties of Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon

### **BACKGROUND**

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was adopted in 2014. WIOA replaced the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) which replaced the Job Training Partnership Act and its predecessor Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. WIOA governs statewide and local workforce development systems.

WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. WIOA (and its predecessors) outline specific roles for counties.

### **Structure – Workforce Development Area**

Under WIOA states are required to designate local workforce development areas. The purpose of the local area is to serve as a jurisdiction for the administration of workforce development activities and funds allocated by the state for the one-stop system, adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs. Local units of government make requests to the Governor to be designated as a WDA. Under 29 U.S.C. § 3121(b), the Governor must consider labor market areas, regional economic development regions, and geographic boundaries when designating local workforce areas.

Wisconsin has designated 11 workforce development areas.

Each local area is required to have the following governing agreements in place:

- Chief Elected Official (CEO) Consortium Agreement
- Workforce Development Board (WDB) Bylaws
- WDB-CEO Agreement
- WDB-Fiscal Agent Agreement

Each local WDA must also develop a WIOA Local Plan.

### **County Consortium/Chief Local Elected Officials**

Under 29 U.S.C. § 3122(d)(12)(B) and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (Uniform Guidance), the chief elected official *must* serve as the local grant recipient and is *statutorily liable* for the misuse of federal funds allocated to the WDA. The chief elected official within a local area serves a vital role in establishing and governing the local WDB within the area. In cases where more than one unit of local government (counties) exists within a local area, the chief elected officials of such units execute an agreement to describe how the LEOs will carry out their roles and responsibilities under WIOA, including financial liability and the appointment of WDB members. The agreement also determines which official shall serve as the lead for the consortium and therefore be the designated CEO for the local WDB.

**According to federal law, the chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient, and shall be liable for the misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area.**

County consortium responsibilities include:

- Appointment of the workforce development board (WDB)
- Establishment of bylaws for the WDB
- Serving as the local grant recipient
- Selecting a fiscal agent
- Working collaboratively with the WDB on fund allocation, budget, workforce system policy development, selection of the one-stop operator and development of the local plan

The LEOs must enter into an agreement with the WDB to spell out their respective roles and responsibilities. Both the WDB and LEOs are responsible for providing program and fiscal oversight.

### **Workforce Development Board**

WIOA requires the establishment of one local workforce development board (WDB) in each local area of the state. The chief elected official in each local area is required to appoint the members of the local WDB in accordance with federal and state criteria.

The primary role of the local WDB is to serve as a strategic convener to promote and broker effective relationships between the CEOs and economic, education and workforce partners throughout the local area. The local WDB must develop strategies to continuously improve and strengthen the workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs to promote economic growth.

Federal law outlines several specific functions for workforce development boards including local plan development; conducting workforce research and regional labor market analysis; lead

employer engagement efforts; conduct program oversight; and develop, implement, and monitor a budget.

In WDA 9, the workforce development board serves as the administrative entity and fiscal agent for WIOA programs and funding as outlined in the WDB-CEO Agreement. Although the WDB is a statutory body established under WIOA, WDA 9's board has incorporated a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity (WWWDB, Inc.) which employs staff and operates as the administrative entity. The statutory WDB and the nonprofit corporation are distinct legal entities, though the same individuals often serve dual roles.

### **WDB Staffing**

Each local WDB employs a director and other staff to assist in carrying out the functions of the WDB.

The local WDB shall establish and apply a set of objective qualifications for the position of director that ensures that the individual selected has the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities to meet identified benchmarks and to assist in effectively carrying out the functions of the local WDB.

### **WDA 9 ISSUES**

Over the last several years, the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (WWWDB) has experienced significant instability and competency gaps in key administrative and fiscal positions. This has led to several disallowed costs which will be discussed below.

In addition, the State of Wisconsin, on May 30, 2025, provided notification to the Chief Local Elected Official that WDA 9 is not in compliance with uniform administrative requirements, WDA 9 was required to take corrective action to secure prompt compliance with uniform administrative requirements and WDA 9 has not complied with required corrective action. Under 20 C.F.R. § 679.420(c) and 29 U.S.C. § 3122(d)(12)(B), the State has authority to require the LEOs to designate a different fiscal agent when the existing administrative entity fails to maintain compliance with Uniform Guidance or federal program requirements. Therefore, the state exercised its authority under WIOA to require the LEOs to designate an entity other than the WWWDB, Inc. as the fiscal agent for the local area no later than September 1, 2025. Multiple monitoring events found several hundred thousand dollars in questioned costs, financial statements and records that were not reliable, worsening conditions despite several hours of ongoing and intensive technical assistance, and failure to undergo the required single audit for the past three fiscal years.

Disallowed Costs – PY 22 and PY 23

As discussed earlier, any disallowed costs become the liability of the counties that are members of the consortium.

The State of Wisconsin generously reopened PY 22 disallowed costs to provide new WWWDB staff, leadership and a contracted accountant an opportunity to make corrections to staff time allocations, provide appropriate receipts, etc. to decrease the fiscal liability to counties.

On July 11, 2025, invoices for PY 22 disallowed costs and special investigation report disallowed costs were sent to the WWWDB totaling \$89,408.03. The final invoice for PY 22 disallowed costs totals \$33,821.84.

PY 23 questioned costs total \$352,778.16. WWWDB staff are still working with DWD to resolve the PY 23 questioned costs. However, given the issues stated above with regard to financials statements and records it is likely that \$200,000+ of the questioned costs will not be resolved and will become the fiscal liability of the counties.

Other Non-WIOA Funding Issues

The WWWDB, Inc. has additional fiscal liabilities that are not the fiscal liability of the counties including an EEOC complaint, an IRS penalty and non-WIOA program disallowed costs. Although the counties are not liable for these non-WIOA obligations, they may nonetheless affect the capacity and solvency of WWWDB, Inc., which could in turn impair its ability to serve as an administrative entity or comply with fiscal-agent directives.

**STEPS BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT ISSUES AT HAND**

Over the past several months, many changes have occurred at the WWWDB. The former executive director resigned and a new interim director is in place. Many new members have been appointed to the WWWDB. New board leadership is in place, including a new chair and new treasurer. An outside accountant has been hired to manage the accounts of the WWWDB. All of the new leaders have committed to ensuring fiscal and programmatic integrity moving forward.

**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT  
of the  
WESTERN WISCONSIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA**

under the  
**WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (P.L. 113-128)**

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ by and between the counties of Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon in the State of Wisconsin (hereinafter, the "Counties") and supersedes and replaces any and all prior consortium agreements or charters between or among the Counties related to the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act and/or its successor, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors of the aforementioned Counties did previously adopt resolutions authorizing the County Board Chairperson to sign a Consortium Agreement creating the Western Wisconsin Counties Consortium under Wis. Stat. 66.0301 in order to administer the provisions of Public Law 105-220, the federal Workforce Investment Act; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors of each of the aforementioned Counties has adopted a resolution authorizing the County Board Chairperson or their designee to sign this "Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area" under the Workforce Investment Act; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) was enacted by Congress in replacement of the Workforce Investment Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises and the mutual covenants of the parties hereinafter set forth, the receipt and sufficiency of which each party acknowledges, the Counties do hereby agree to the following:

**AGREEMENT:**

Section 1: That the Counties of Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon, under the authority granted by Wis. Stat. 66.0301, do hereby constitute themselves to be a consortium for the purposes of jointly implementing and exercising their powers and duties under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, 29 U.S.C. Chapter 32; Public Law 113-128 (the "WIOA").

Section 2: The chief local elected officials (the Chairperson of the County Board of Supervisors) or the designees of said officials of the Counties in Section 1 shall constitute the Workforce Development Area Consortium of Commissioners (hereinafter, the “Consortium”) which shall appoint the Workforce Development Board under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, Section 29 U.S.C. Chapter 32 and perform such other duties as outlined in Appendix A.

Section 3: The Consortium shall elect from its membership a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and such other officers as may be provided in the bylaws. Vacancies shall be filled by election for the remainder of the unexpired term. The Chairperson shall appoint a staff person of either one of the consortium member counties or the administrative entity to serve as consortium clerk.

Section 4: The Chairperson of the Consortium shall serve as Chief Elected Official (“CEO”) of the Consortium. This person shall have signatory authority and authority to speak for the Consortium in all matters regarding the WIOA, and shall perform the duties of the CEO identified in Appendix A. The term of this designation shall be stated in the bylaws.

Section 5: Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the procedures of the Consortium insofar as they do not conflict with applicable law or administrative rules or bylaws duly adopted by the Consortium.

Section 6: The Consortium may adopt operational and procedural bylaws consistent with this Consortium Agreement, applicable federal and state laws, and rules or regulations pursuant thereto, including bylaws with respect to the procedure for the selection of Workforce Development Board members. Bylaws or amendments thereto may be adopted by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the entire membership of the Consortium at any regular meeting called for that purpose, provided that written copies thereof are delivered to each member 15 days prior to consideration.

Section 7: The Consortium shall appoint the Workforce Development Board of the area. In accordance with the requirements established by the Governor and the criteria established under 29 U.S.C. § 3122(b), the Consortium appoints the members of the local board from the individuals nominated or recommended to be such members according to 29 U.S.C. § 3122(c)(1)(B).

Section 8: The Consortium shall execute an agreement with the Workforce Development Board requiring the performance of the functions of a “local board” under 29 U.S.C. § 3122(d) (WIOA Section 107(d)), and shall in partnership with the Workforce Development Board, develop and submit Local Plans to the Governor that meet the requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 3123 (WIOA Section 108).

Section 9: The Consortium shall perform all functions for local elected officials as contained in Public Law 113-128, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (see Appendix A).

Section 10: The Consortium is the grant recipient of the WIOA funds and is liable for any misuse of the grant funds allocated to the local area under 29 U.S.C. §§ 3122(d)(12)(B)(i)(I) and (II) (WIOA Section 107(d)(12)(B)(i)(I) and (II)) unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor to bear such liability. The Consortium shall require any administrative entity, local grant subrecipient and local fiscal agent to provide reasonable protection against liability claims by: requiring directors, officers, and CEOs be covered by errors and omissions insurance; ensuring that any administrative entity, including any fiscal agent, maintains appropriate internal controls over the use of grant funds; utilizing language in subcontracts regarding disallowed costs; and conducting routine annual independent audits.

Section 11: In the case of any misuse (disallowances) of grant funds allocated to the local area, the Consortium agrees, in accordance with 20 C.F.R. 683.710(b)(2), to allocate liability to all members of the consortium proportionally based on each county's relative share of population.

Section 12: This Consortium Agreement shall be effective when executed by the Local Elected Official of each County, following approval and authorization by each respective County Board of Supervisors thereof, and shall thereupon act to repeal and supersede any and all prior written or oral consortium agreements. Amendments to this Consortium Agreement may be adopted with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors of each county party hereto.

Section 13: The Consortium may be dissolved and this agreement may be rescinded only with the consent of all the Boards of Supervisors of the counties party hereto and the Governor.

Signature Page

## APPENDIX A

### Provisions on Chief Elected Official (CEO – aka LEO) Consortium Powers and Duties

- A. In cases where more than one unit of local government exists within a local area, the chief elected officials of such units may execute an agreement to describe their responsibilities for carrying out roles and responsibilities, including financial liability. Such agreement shall determine which official shall serve as the lead for the consortium, and therefore be the designated CEO for the local WDB.
- B. Designation and Membership of the Local Area Board
  1. The CEO is required to submit a request for initial designation of a workforce development area and consult with the Governor on the initial designation or redesignation of Workforce Development Area (29 U.S.C. §§ 3121(b)(2) and 3121(b)(1)(A)(ii); WIOA Section 106(b)(1)(A)(II) and (b)(2)).
  2. In accordance with the requirements established by the Governor, the criteria established under 29 U.S.C. § 3122(b), and the Consortium Agreement, the CEO shall facilitate appointments of the members of the local board from the individuals nominated or recommended to be such members (29 U.S.C. § 3122(c)(1)(B); WIOA Section 107(c)(1)(B)(i)(I)).
    - a. The CEO for each local WDB must establish bylaws, consistent with State policy that, at minimum, address the following:
      - i. The nomination process used by the CEO to elect non-DWD-appointed Local WDB members.
      - ii. The length of terms for local non-DWD-appointed WDB members, and the process by which term end dates will be staggered to ensure only a reasonable portion of the members' terms expire during any given year.
      - iii. The process by which the CEO will be notified of a vacancy on the local workforce development board to ensure prompt nomination for and filling of the position.
      - iv. The process that will be used when a board member is unable to attend a meeting and assigns a designee per the requirements at 679.110(d)(4).
      - v. The use of technology, such as phone and web-based meetings, to promote board member participation.
      - vi. The process to ensure workforce development board members actively participate in convening the workforce development system's stakeholders, brokering relationships with a diverse range of employers, and leveraging support for workforce development activities.
      - vii. A description of any other conditions governing appointment or membership on the local workforce development board as deemed appropriate by the CEO.

### C. Local and Regional Planning

1. Work with the local workforce development board to develop and submit to the Governor a comprehensive four-year local plan that is consistent with the State plan and meets the requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 3123 (29 U.S.C. §§ 3122(d)(1) and 3123; WIOA Sections 107(d)(1) and 108).
2. Consult with the State to identify regions, consistent with the considerations described in 29 U.S.C. §§ 3121(a)(1) and (b)(1)(B); WIOA Sections 106(a)(1) and (b)(1)(B).
3. Engage in a regional planning process and prepare, submit, and obtain approval of a single regional plan consistent with the requirements in 29 U.S.C. § 3121(c); WIOA Section 106(c).

### D. Budget and Grant Administration Responsibilities

1. Use funds available as described in 29 U.S.C. § 3163(b)(4) [WIOA Section 128(b)(4)] and use non-federal funds available to the local area that the CEO and local board determine are appropriate and available for that use (29 U.S.C. § 3131(b); WIOA Section 111(b)).
2. Review and approve the local workforce development board's budget for the activities of the local workforce development board (29 U.S.C. § 3122(d)(12)(A); WIOA Section 107(d)(12)(A)).
3. Serve as a local grant recipient or designate an entity to serve as the local grant subrecipient or a local fiscal agent (29 U.S.C. § 3122(d)(12)(B); WIOA Section 107(d)(12)(B)).
4. In cooperation with the local workforce development board, the CEO as local grant recipient (or the local grant subrecipient designated by the CEO) shall disburse funds for WIOA activities at the direction of the local board pursuant to the requirements of 29 U.S.C. Chapter 32, subchapter II (29 U.S.C. § 3122(d)(12)(B)(i)(III); WIOA Section 107(d)(12)(B)(i)(I)).

### E. Program Oversight

1. Work with the local workforce development board to conduct oversight with respect to local programs of youth activities authorized under 29 U.S.C. § 3164(c) (WIOA Section 129(c)), local employment and training activities authorized under 29 U.S.C. §§ 3174(c) and (d) (WIOA Section 134(c)), and the one-stop delivery system in the local area under 29 U.S.C. § 3151 (WIOA Section 121); ensure the appropriate use and management of the WIOA funds provided for these activities and one-stop delivery system; and for workforce development activities, ensure the appropriate use, management, and investment of funds to maximize performance outcomes under 29 U.S.C. §§ 3141 and 3122(d)(8) [WIOA Sections 116 and 107(d)(8)].
2. Consistent with 29 U.S.C. § 3151(d)(WIOA Section 121(d)), in cooperation with the local workforce development board, competitively designate or certify One-Stop Operators, as described in 29 U.S.C. § 3151(d)(2)(A) or terminate for cause for

eligibility of such operators (29 U.S.C. § 3122(d)(10)(A); WIOA Section 107(d)(10)(A)).

3. Review and approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the local workforce development board and the One-Stop partners, relating to the operation of the One-Stop delivery system in the local area, consistent with the requirements in 29 U.S.C. §§ 3151(c)(1) and (2) [WIOA Sections 121(c)(1) and (2)].
4. In agreement with the local workforce development board, conduct oversight of the One-Stop delivery system (29 U.S.C. § 3151(a)(3); WIOA Section 121(a)(3)) and consult with the State as it establishes objective criteria and procedures used to evaluate the operation of the One-Stop center as described in 29 U.S.C. § 3151(g) [WIOA Section 121(g)].
5. Consult with the local workforce development board, the One-Stop Operator, and the One-Stop partners regarding funding of the One-Stop infrastructure as described in 29 U.S.C. § 3151(h) [WIOA Section 121(h)].
6. Consult with the Governor as they establish guidance for infrastructure One-Stop funding (29 U.S.C. § 3151(h)(1)(B); WIOA Section 121(h)(1)(B)) and determine funding as described in 29 U.S.C. § 3151(h)(2)(C) [WIOA Section 121(h)(2)(C)].
7. Consult with the Governor as they determine funding allocations for youth activities and statewide workforce investment activities under 29 U.S.C. §§ 3162(b)(1)(C) and 3163(b) [WIOA Sections 127(b)(1)(C) and 128(b)].
8. Consult with the Governor as they determine funding allocations for adult employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities under 29 U.S.C. §§ 3172(b)(1)(B) and 3173(b) [WIOA Sections 132(b)(1)(B) and 133(b)].

#### F. Performance Measurements

1. Work with the local workforce development board and the Governor to negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures (29 U.S.C. § 3122(d)(9); WIOA Section 107(d)(9)).
2. Determine whether to appeal a gubernatorial reorganization determination made under 29 U.S.C. § 3141(g)(A) to the Governor under 29 U.S.C. § 3141(g)(2)(B)(i) and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor under 29 U.S.C. § 3141(g)(2)(B)(ii) [WIOA Section 116(g)(2)].



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## Crawford County Board

### **Jail Replacement – Mobile Command Center (“Project”) Phase III Financing Details**

### **\$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes - 2026**

February 17, 2026

Presented by: Carol Ann Wirth

## BACKGROUND

June 18, 2024 – County Board adopted Initial Resolution providing authority to borrow not to exceed \$35,000,000 for the Project.

Three-Phase Financing Plan – Each 20 Years - Originally Est. @ 5.00% - Total 22 Year Amortization

Phase I borrowing 2024 - \$13,000,000 @ 3.86% - 20 years (2025 – 2044) – Completed in September 2024

Phase II borrowing 2025 - \$18,000,000 @ 3.91% - 20 years (2026 – 2045) – Completed in March 2025

Phase III borrowing 2026 – \$4,000,000\* @ Est. @ 3.87% - 19 years (2027 – 2045) – Scheduled for March 2026

\*This is the final borrowing authority under the Initial Resolution.

## RESOLUTION SETTING THE SALE

The Resolution Setting the Sale for the 2026 Notes is prepared by Quarles & Brady, the County's Bond Counsel.

The Resolution begins by referencing the Initial Resolution adopted by the County Board on June 18, 2024 providing the authority to issue not to exceed \$35 million for the jail replacement project and mobile command center (the "Project").

It references the completed first and second phase financings:

\$13,000,000 of General Obligation Promissory Notes dated September 9, 2024, and  
\$18,000,000 of General Obligation Promissory Notes dated March 24, 2025

It describes the third and final phase financing - \$4,000,000 of General Obligation Promissory Notes

1. Will be sold at public (competitive) sale, at a future date (March 9, 2026)
2. For County Board consideration\* of bids received (at special meeting to be held on March 10, 2026).

The County Clerk is directed (in consultation with Wisconsin Public Finance Professionals, LLC ("WPFP")) to:

1. Prepare and distribute an Official Notice of Sale, advertising the sale of the Notes to prospective bidders, and
2. Prepare and distribute an Official Statement (similar to a prospectus), which is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

WPFP will prepare and distribute these documents, similar to the prior financings.

Adoption of the Resolution Setting the Sale requires a majority vote of the County Board members present.

\*County Board will consider an "Award Resolution" locking in the terms of the financing including final interest rates and tax levy.

## PHASE III - PRELIMINARY SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

### \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes Estimated Sources & Uses

Dated 03/19/2026 | Delivered 03/19/2026

<b>Sources Of Funds</b>	
Par Amount of 2026 Notes	\$4,000,000.00
Estimated Reoffering Premium	271,566.70
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$4,271,566.70</b>

### Uses Of Funds

<b>Uses Of Funds</b>	
Total Est. Underwriting Expenses (Municipal Advisor, Bond Counsel, Rating, Underwriting)	113,440.00
Deposit to Project Construction Fund	4,000,000.00
Est. Excess Premium Deposited to Debt Service	158,126.70
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>\$4,271,566.70</b>

All expenses of issuance will be paid for by the winning underwriter. Fee quotes received for Phase III are as follows:

WPFP (Municipal Advisor) Fee	-	\$30,000
Official Statements (Printing & Distribution)	-	\$ 1,500
Quarles & Brady (Bond Counsel)	-	\$19,440
Moody's Investors Service (Rating Agency)	-	\$14,500
Sub-Total		\$65,440
Underwriting Compensation (Estimate)		<u>\$48,000</u>
Total		\$113,440

### PHASE III – ESTIMATED REPAYMENT SCHEDULE WITH CURRENT MARKET RATES

#### \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes 2026 Est. Debt Service Schedule

Calendar Year	Principal (3/01)	Coupon	Estimated Interest	Total Est. Debt Service
2026	-	-	-	-
2027	60,000.00	5.000%	254,352.50	314,352.50
2028	145,000.00	5.000%	169,825.00	314,825.00
2029	150,000.00	5.000%	162,450.00	312,450.00
2030	160,000.00	5.000%	154,700.00	314,700.00
2031	165,000.00	5.000%	146,575.00	311,575.00
2032	175,000.00	5.000%	138,075.00	313,075.00
2033	185,000.00	5.000%	129,075.00	314,075.00
2034	190,000.00	5.000%	119,700.00	309,700.00
2035	200,000.00	5.000%	109,950.00	309,950.00
2036	215,000.00	5.000%	99,575.00	314,575.00
2037	220,000.00	4.000%	89,800.00	309,800.00
2038	230,000.00	4.000%	80,800.00	310,800.00
2039	240,000.00	4.000%	71,400.00	311,400.00
2040	250,000.00	4.000%	61,600.00	311,600.00
2041	260,000.00	4.000%	51,400.00	311,400.00
2042	270,000.00	4.000%	40,800.00	310,800.00
2043	285,000.00	4.000%	29,700.00	314,700.00
2044	295,000.00	4.000%	18,100.00	313,100.00
2045	305,000.00	4.000%	6,100.00	311,100.00
-	<b>\$4,000,000.00</b>	<b>TIC 3.78%</b>	<b>\$1,933,977.50</b>	<b>\$5,933,977.50</b>

### PHASE III - PRELIMINARY PRICING SCHEDULE

The schedule below reflects interest rates and yields from a recent Wisconsin sale in the municipal bond market for a municipality with a similar dollar amount, credit rating and term of financing. The interest rates and yields are not guaranteed and will continue to change until locked in on the date the 2026 Notes sell in the market (March 9) and action taken on an Award Resolution by the County Board at the March 10 special County Board meeting. Market updates will be provided to the County during this time.

### \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes 2026 Preliminary Pricing Summary

Maturity	Type of Bond	Coupon	Yield	Maturity Value	Price	Dollar Price
03/01/2027	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.8500%	60,000.00	101.999%	61,199.40
03/01/2028	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.8500%	145,000.00	104.048%	150,869.60
03/01/2029	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.8500%	150,000.00	106.040%	159,060.00
03/01/2030	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.8500%	160,000.00	107.976%	172,761.60
03/01/2031	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.8500%	165,000.00	109.859%	181,267.35
03/01/2032	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.8500%	175,000.00	111.688%	195,454.00
03/01/2033	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.9000%	185,000.00	113.130%	209,290.50
03/01/2034	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	2.9000%	190,000.00	114.813%	218,144.70
03/01/2035	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	3.0000%	200,000.00	115.594%	231,188.00
03/01/2036	Serial Coupon	5.0000%	3.1000%	215,000.00	116.159%	249,741.85
03/01/2037	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.1500%	220,000.00	107.210%	235,862.00
03/01/2038	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.3000%	230,000.00	105.894%	243,556.20
03/01/2039	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.4000%	240,000.00	105.027%	252,064.80
03/01/2040	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.5000%	250,000.00	104.169%	260,422.50
03/01/2041	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.5500%	260,000.00	103.742%	269,729.20
03/01/2042	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.6500%	270,000.00	102.896%	277,819.20
03/01/2043	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.7000%	285,000.00	102.476%	292,056.60
03/01/2044	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.7500%	295,000.00	102.058%	301,071.10
03/01/2045	Serial Coupon	4.0000%	3.8000%	305,000.00	101.642%	310,008.10
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$4,000,000.00</b>	-	<b>\$4,271,566.70</b>
Par Amount of Notes						\$4,000,000.00
Reoffering Premium or (Discount)						271,566.70
Gross Production						\$4,271,566.70
Total Est. Underwriter's Expenses						\$(113,440.00)
Total Purchase Price						\$4,158,126.70
True Interest Cost (TIC)						3.7803324%

# **Crawford County Replacement Jail and Mobile Command Unit Project**

**Final \$13 Million Phase I and Final \$18 Million Phase II and Est. \$4 Million Phase III Financing in 2026**

Note: 2026 Combined Debt Service figure is reduced by premium from 2024 Notes and 2025 Notes.

Existing Debt Service from 2027 to 2045 includes projected \$850,000 annual short-term borrowing.

## \$35 MILLION FINANCING PLAN COMPARISON ORIGINAL ESTIMATES VERSUS CURRENT ESTIMATES

### Original Estimates

Three Phase Financing:	\$13 Million in 2024 - \$13 Million in 2025 - \$9 Million in 2026
Estimated Interest Rate:	5%
Total Repayment of Debt	22 Years
Total Est. Avg. Annual Debt Payment	\$2,590,000
Total Est. Principal & Interest Over 22 Years	\$56,963,639

### Current Estimates

Three Phase Financing	\$13 Million in 2024 -	\$18 Million in 2025 -	\$4 Million in 2026
Interest Rates	3.86% 2024 (actual) -	3.91% 2025 (actual.) -	3.87% 2026 (est.)
Total Repayment of Debt	21 Years		
Total Est. Avg. Annual Debt Payment	\$2,465,000		
Total Est. Principal & Interest Over 21 Years	\$50,731,241		

**Approximately \$6.2 Million less interest costs than originally projected, and one year less for repayment.**

## **TIMELINE FOR PHASE III FINANCING - \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes 2026**

February 17	WPFP Presents Report on Phase III Financing Details to County Board County Board adopts Resolution Setting the Sale of \$4 Million G.O. Notes and Directing WPFP to Prepare the Official Statement and Official Notice of Sale
Months of January/ February	WPFP Prepares County to Market Access – Preparation of Official Statement and Official Notice of Sale Advertising the Sale to Underwriters Coordinate Preparation of Legal Documents with Bond Counsel
February 17	Rating Conference Call with Moody's Investors Service (Following County Board Meeting)
March 9	WPFP Accepts and Verifies Bids from Underwriters for Crawford County's \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes 2026; Provide Sale Results to Quarles & Brady for completion of Award Resolution.
<b>March 10 Special Co. Bd Mtg.</b>	County Board Adopts Award Resolution Locking in Final Interest Rates and Tax Levy and Awarding the Notes to the Successful Bidder
March 26	Closing – All Funds Wired to County for Deposit in Project Account

## **RESOLUTION NO. 1-2026**

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### **RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCOUNTS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee has recommended that the following 2025 accounts be carried forward into 2026:

#### **Carried Forward Accounts by Budget Journal Entry:**

Employee Recognition  
Coroner-Inquest & Autopsies  
Coroner-Burial Fund  
Information Technology – Technology/Contingency  
Data Processing Copy Machines  
Surveyor -Setting Corners  
Subdivision Ordinance  
Subdivision Ordinance (Revenue)  
Corporate Counsel – Labr/Emp Negotiations/Legal  
Law Enforcement – Uniform Allowance  
Veteran’s Grant  
County Tax for Need Vets  
State Aid Veterans Services Grant (Revenue)  
County Fair – Co Fair/Capital Improvements  
Extension Postage  
Jail Building & Repair  
Circuit Court Jail Assessment (Revenue)

#### **Account Numbers:**

100.01.51110.336  
100.10.51270.256  
100.10.51270.322  
100.11.51330.408  
100.12.51440.313  
100.16.51731.113  
100.17.51733.319  
100.00.44138  
100.25.51611.257  
100.40.52111.346  
100.52.53821.355  
100.53.53811.319  
100.00.42781  
100.57.55141.208  
100.60.55621.349  
100.94.61183.319  
100.00.44137

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors approve the carryovers of the aforementioned accounts.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**Gary Koch, Chairman  
Greg Russell  
Bruce Strnad**

**Gerald Krachey  
Wayne Jerrett**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2-2026**

### **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR 2023-2026 TERMS OF OFFICE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Personnel Committee of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors has been charged with the task of establishing salaries for the Constitutional Officers of Crawford County prior to April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, for the term of office commencing January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

To announce the following salaries for elected officials with the intent to provide these positions with the same percentage of increase as other department heads for the remaining terms of their office.

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>CURRENT SALARY</b>
Clerk of Court	\$ 84,537.70
Sheriff	\$ 98,019.11
Coroner	\$ 26,812.05

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will follow the provisions of Section 59.22(1)(a).

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

**Brad Steiner, Chairman  
Carl Orr  
Owen DuCharme**

**Mark Gilberts  
Wayne Jerrett, Jr.**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF \$4,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTES**

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors for Crawford County, Wisconsin (the "County") adopted an initial resolution (the "Initial Resolution") authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or promissory notes in an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000 for public purposes, including financing (a) the jail replacement project, consisting of a renovated Sheriff's Office and the construction of a new Jail built on the County's downtown campus and (b) the procurement and implementation of a new, advanced mobile command center (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that it is necessary and desirable to finance the Project, as authorized by the Initial Resolution, in phases; and

WHEREAS, the first phase was previously financed by the \$13,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, dated September 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the second phase was previously financed by the \$18,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, dated March 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined to it is necessary and desirable to finance the third phase through the issuance of not to exceed \$4,000,000 general obligation promissory notes (the "Notes"), pursuant to Chapter 67, Wisconsin Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Supervisors of the County that:

Section 1. Issuance of the Notes. The County shall issue its Notes in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 for the purpose of financing the third phase of the Project.

Section 2. Sale of the Notes. The County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the Notes be offered for public sale. At a subsequent meeting, the County Board of Supervisors shall consider such bids for the Notes as may have been received and take action thereon.

Section 3. Notice of Sale. The County Clerk (in consultation with Wisconsin Public Finance Professionals, LLC ("WPFP")) be and hereby is directed to cause notice of the sale of the Notes to be disseminated in such manner and at such times as the County Clerk may determine and to cause copies of a complete Official Notice of Sale and other pertinent data to be forwarded to interested bidders as the County Clerk may determine.

Section 4. Official Statement. The County Clerk (in consultation with WPFP) shall cause an Official Statement to be prepared and distributed. The appropriate County officials shall determine when the Official Statement is final for purposes of Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12 and shall certify said Official Statement, such certification to constitute full authorization of such Official Statement under this resolution.

Adopted, approved and recorded February 17, 2026.

Thomas Cornford  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Roberta A. Fisher  
County Clerk

(SEAL)

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION

Initiated By:

Land Conservation, Planning and  
Zoning Committee

Submitted By:

Land Conservation, Planning and  
Zoning Committee

Drafted By:

Michal J. Peterson  
Corporation Counsel

Date Drafted:

January 26, 2026

### RESOLUTION REGARDING POTENTIAL 765 kV TRANSMISSION LINE DEVELOPMENT BY DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

**WHEREAS**, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Dairyland Power Cooperative have announced intentions for a 765 kV transmission line known as, "LRTP Project #26, North Rochester - Columbia;" that is designated to pass, in part, through Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk and Columbia Counties and in Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties with an additional, double-circuit, 161 kV transmission line; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, LRTP Project #26 proposed to pass through our area would be part of a 765 kV transmission "backbone" system continuing from Columbia (Portage, WI) to another regional electricity market that serves Chicago and points east; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, a transmission line of this size and characteristics has never been considered or constructed in Wisconsin, to date; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the cost of Project 26 that would be assumed by ratepayers has been estimated at \$10.6 billion; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, within MISO's most recent FAQ, the regional utility interests' estimate of costs and benefits from the Tranche 2.1 expansion lines (including a potential 765 kV project through our area) would lead to an expense of about \$13.50 per month for an electric customer using 1,000 kWh per month; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin staff engineers have found that upgrades of existing transmission lines can provide the same benefits at much less expense to ratepayers; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the official, Independent Monitor of the MISO wholesale electricity market and MISO transmission planning, Potomac Economics, has found that MISO's Tranche 2.1 transmission lines, including the Project:

- Assume a view of the future that is "extremely unlikely."

- Forecast potential benefits to the customer that are “overstated” or “invalid” in five of eight key categories.
- Would lead to “uneconomic investment (that) will raise costs and undermine investment in resources, storage and other alternatives to transmission.”
- The MISO Board should “postpone approval of Tranche 2.1 transmission lines;” **and**,

**WHEREAS**, MISO’s Tranche 2.1 transmission expansion planning requires a very large buildout of wind and solar facilities which, traditionally, have relied on very substantial federal tax credit incentives that are now scheduled for elimination in 2028 as determined in the July, 2025 Federal Reconciliation Budget Bill; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, use of electricity and summer peak demand in Wisconsin have been statistically flat over the last 10 years; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, An Environmental Impact Statement jointly authored by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found that even smaller 345 kV transmission lines “may result in negative affects to property values, tax credits and heritage tourism”: and mentions studies showing devaluations from 10 to 45% depending on the proximity, visibility, size of parcel and whether sited in an industrial or natural setting; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Crawford County’s Comprehensive Plan and Land and Water Resource Management Plan both reflect the inherent and economic value of natural resources and farmland of the County; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the karst geology of the region is unstable for extremely heavy development such as the transmission towers, and vulnerable to potential ground water pollution during construction; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, LRTP Project #26, North Rochester-Columbia as designed would add hazardous obstacles for migrating and resident raptors, water fowl and songbirds that routinely utilize the Mississippi River Flyway.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that Dairyland Power Cooperative and/or its assigns provide the following information either in written, electronic format or through an in-person presentation before our Board before March 15, 2026:

1. A map of eligible, existing transmission line routes for the considered 765 kV/ 161 kV transmission line Project through Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties.
2. Images of the types of towers that might be used for the transmission line Project in Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties.
3. The range of the heights of these 765 kV/161 kV transmission towers, in feet.

4. The range in total easement widths that these 765 kV/161 kV transmission towers would require, in feet.
5. The name(s) of the entity or entities that would be the owner(s) of the Vernon, Crawford and Richland County sited portions of the 765 kV/161 kV transmission line.
6. Estimated date that the 765 kV/161 kV transmission line is expected to be proposed to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
7. Estimated total cost of *Project #26, North Rochester - Columbia transmission line that includes* the 765 kV /161 kV segment in Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk and Columbia Counties.
8. Estimated total cost of regional generation additions in the Electric Generation Expansion Analysis System (EGEAS) for MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1.
9. If the costs of Project #26 would be shared with electric customers in other states, provide a list of those states.
10. Estimated capital cost per month per customer in Vernon and Crawford Counties over 20 years for the Project #26.
11. Give documentation of the acreage of additional land used for the right of way of Project 26 in Crawford County. List acreage of forested land lost.
12. Give documentation of how Dairyland has mitigated the issue of the cracked and unstable karst geology in other 765 kV lines. If that's not ever been done, give thorough analysis of how 200' towers will be stabilized and built on karst geology. Give documentation on how surface and ground water will be protected during construction.
13. Give documentation of the acreage amount of wildlife habitat that will be lost, how birds, raptors and waterfowl will be impacted in the Mississippi River Flyway, and how the bird impact will be mitigated.
14. Documentation from MISO that accounts for considering the use of carbon composite conductors when alternatively rebuilding the avoided transmission facilities, and "reliability issues" in long range transmission planning.
15. A list of the "significant economic development benefits" that the Project would deliver to the local economies adjacent to the proposed project through Vernon, Crawford, and Richland Counties.
16. Documentation explaining MISO's calculation of a net monetary benefit for Wisconsin residential electric customers if the estimated cost of the Project is around \$27.50 per month, while returning only \$10 to \$14 per month to ratepayers.
17. Documentation from MISO planning that estimates of the percentage of electrical power assumed to be provided from distributed solar and distributed storage resources in years 1, 10, and 20.
18. A list of prior, combination 161 kV and 765kV transmission projects the expected developers of the Project have installed, with their locations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in the case that a transmission developer(s) other than Dairyland Power Cooperative/GridLiance-Heartland is considering siting a 765 kV transmission line on any land in Crawford County, we ask that this request for detailed map information be submitted to that developer within 30 days after this condition is known to Dairyland Power Cooperative/GridLiance-Heartland and that Crawford

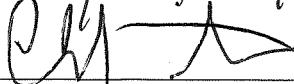
County receives a copy of the conveyance of our request to the other developer along with updated contact information.

Submitted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Koch, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Kuhn

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Owen DuCharme

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kate Krachey  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Sime

Passed and approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

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**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

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**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

# **Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2027-2036**



**Crawford County Land Conservation Department**

**Plan Adopted by the Crawford County Board of Supervisors  
XXXX, 2026**



# Executive Summary

## Introduction

The Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) summarizes Crawford County's soil and water resources and identifies conservation programs and actions to protect and enhance the resources. The plan is also a guide for the Land Conservation Department in its efforts to assist county landowners and policy makers in protecting and improving land and water resources in the county. The plan's goals are intended to provide direction to Crawford County and the Land Conservation Department for the next ten years.

## Plan Background

Crawford County had its initial LWRM plan approved by the Land and Water Conservation Board in 2001 and subsequent updates in 2006 and 2010. The 2016 plan revision was updated in 2021 with another full revision anticipated to be approved by the Land and Water Conservation Board and the Crawford County Board of Supervisors by the Spring of 2026.

## Plan Development and Public Input

In 2008-2010 Crawford County undertook a public intensive comprehensive planning process to develop the "Crawford County Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029". Because Crawford County is very rural county there has not been a lot of changes that have taken place since the Comprehensive Plan was created. Therefore, public input that was gathered in the comprehensive planning process that addressed land and water resource concerns will again be taken into consideration. Additional public input was gathered during the public comment portion of the committee meetings. In addition, input was requested from LCD and County staff and partner agencies (NRCS, DNR, etc.). A public hearing on the plan is scheduled to be held in the summer of 2025.

## Other Plans Considered

Several resource management plans have a relationship to this plan. Data from these plans were reviewed in the development of the Crawford County LWRM plan. The plans reviewed include:

- Wisconsin Water Quality Report to Congress, 2024
- Crawford County Farmland Preservation Plan, 2016 revision
- Crawford County Soil Erosion Control Plan, 1987
- Hydrologic Assessment of the Kickapoo Watershed, 1998

## Resource Assessment

### County Snapshot

Crawford County (population 15,944) is 375,040 acres in size, including 8,960 acres of water consisting of the Mississippi, Wisconsin and the Kickapoo rivers. The largest city is Prairie du Chien with a population of 5,531. Agriculture remains the predominate land use. However, rural non-farm residents are greatly increasing. Corn and soybean acreage continues to increase in the county.

### County Soils

There are five primary soil areas in Crawford County. Soil areas include Uplands, Sandy terraces, Silty terraces, Silty bottoms, and Alluvial.

### Cropland and Gully Erosion

Due to the steep terrain of Crawford County, agricultural fields here are more susceptible to rill and gully erosion. Agricultural statistics show that we have had a decrease in hay production and an increase in row crop farming over the last few decades so it has been very important for operators to adopt conservation practices such as no-till, contour strips, field buffer strips, or cover crops to help reduce erosion.

### Animal Waste

Barnyard runoff and land spreading of manure (especially on frozen ground) are the two principal agricultural sources of animal waste pollution in Crawford County streams and wells. Crawford County livestock farmers have followed a statewide trend and expanded their operations, resulting in fewer barnyards and more confined herds. The result is fewer barnyard issues, but more manure spreading problems, especially in late winter and early spring that result in pollution of surface and/or groundwater. The City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River Watershed has seen the most expansion, with 3 recently issued Livestock Siting Permits.

### *Nutrient Management*

Part of the state's NR 151 agricultural performance standards entails obtaining and maintaining a NRCS 590 Standard-compliant Nutrient Management Plan on all cropland and managed pasture ground. The two main driving forces of NMP utilization are the county's Animal Waste Storage Ordinance and the Farmland Preservation Program, both of which require NMP coverage on all crop ground. DATCP's 2024 Annual Nutrient Management Report shows that approximately 21% of Crawford County's cropland is covered under a NMP. The two big concerns addressed by NMPs are soil erosion and associated phosphorous loss to surface waters.

### *Watersheds*

There are seven primary watersheds in Crawford County; Tainter Creek- Kickapoo River Watershed, Kickapoo River Watershed, Knapp Creek Watershed, City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River Watershed, Wisconsin River Watershed, Bloody Run- Mississippi River Watershed, and Rush Creek- Mississippi River Watershed.

### *Hydrology and Fish Habitat*

The county is bounded on the west by the Mississippi, the south by the Wisconsin and is bisected north to south by the Kickapoo River. There are no major headwaters in the county. There are no inland lakes in the county. Crawford County has 55 streams classified by the DNR as trout streams. There are 186.14 miles of Class I, 93.59 miles of Class II, and 28.39 miles of Class III trout streams. High water velocities, steep gradients, and agricultural activities contribute to bank cutting and aggressive meandering of county streams. Stream sediment loading is typically due to the sediment in the valley floor and not the ridge tops.

### *Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters and Impaired Waters of Crawford County*

Waters designated as Outstanding Resource Water or Exceptional Resource Water are surface waters which provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality, and are not significantly impacted by human activities. In Crawford County, there are seven creeks and one river designated as exceptional resource waters, totaling 103.39 miles. In Crawford County, there are five creeks and two rivers that the WIDNR has placed on the impaired waters list due to phosphorus, sediment, or other pollutants that resulted in the waterways meeting water quality standards.

### *The Blackhawk/Kickapoo Dam #6*

Crawford County actively operates and maintains one large, earthen embankment flood control dam built under the federal program PL566 in partnership with USDA/NRCS. The county follows a designated inspection schedule, hiring a professional consultant some years and having a DNR inspection every 10 years. The dam is located on Johnstown Road, about 3 miles east of Highway 27.

### *Wetlands*

The acreage and quality of wetlands in the county have declined over the last several decades. There is intense development pressure in the Mississippi River Valley to ditch, tile, and drain for recreational pursuits. Crawford County LCD will continue to connect landowners with state and federal agencies that offer various programs available to help protect and enhance wetlands in the state.

### *Forest Land*

More than half of Crawford County is wooded. Maintaining productive forest lands is an increasing challenge due to land values. The ability of forest land to be productive is in part affected by the size of forest blocks. As ownership size decreases, the ability to efficiently manage also decreases. Many woodlots are pastured due to Use Value Assessment that has given landowners a tax incentive to graze. Participation in the Managed Forest Law has increased dramatically which has had a positive effect on forested land. Crawford County has one of the highest MFL participation rates in the state.

### *Climate Change*

Wisconsin is becoming generally warmer and wetter. Wisconsin climatologists say the state is likely to continue this trend toward more precipitation. The projected increase in annual rainfall and more intense rain storms heighten the potential for significant soil erosion, affecting water resources and agriculture.

### *Invasive Plants and Species*

County citizens have become more aware of invasive plant and animal species. The public is becoming more aware of new threats and is willing to get involved in control measures. Crawford County has been involved in several projects in attempts to control invasives and spread the word on how important of an issue it is. Some of the biggest threats include garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle, wild parsnip, crown vetch, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, Japanese hops, and Japanese knotweed.

### **Plan Goals**

The following goals for the LWRM plan have been prepared using committee meetings, public comments from these open meetings and a review of past land and water resource documents. The goals are categorized under five resource concerns that summarize the issues affecting the County. Within the plan, objectives and action items are identified in an effort to meet each goal.

#### **Soil Erosion**

- Goal 1: Maintain soil erosion on all cropland to “T”.
- Goal 2: Reduce erosion on land other than cropland.
- Goal 3: Increase money available for cost-sharing to install practices to prevent erosion.

#### **Water Resources**

- Goal 1: Preserve, protect, restore and enhance surface water, groundwater and riparian areas.
- Goal 2: Implement NR151 Strategy outlined in Section 4 of this plan.
- Goal 3: Increase funding for cost-sharing and demonstration projects.

#### **Land Use Planning**

- Goal 1: Work with the towns on the implementation of their comprehensive plans.
- Goal 2: Promote and support local land use planning to protect the natural resources of the county.
- Goal 3: Improve and protect the quality of natural resources by the judicious and economic use of nutrients.
- Goal 4: Utilize Floodplain and Shoreland/ Wetland Zoning to protect our natural resources

#### **Land Management**

- Goal 1: Encourage sustainable forestry practices that improve our unique ecosystems.
- Goal 2: Protect and enhance important wildlife habitat areas.
- Goal 3: Limit wildlife damage to crops.

#### **Waste Disposal**

- Goal 1: Provide hazardous waste recycling/disposal opportunities.

#### **Implementation Tools and Strategies**

There are numerous programs, tools and strategies available to assist in the implementation of the Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. During the planning process the Land Conservation Committee identified several programs, tools and strategies that can be utilized in cooperation with agency partners to address the land and water resource concerns.

#### *Information and Education Strategy*

Knowledge is power. Landowners and residents that make conservation decisions need to hear the story and the facts about the importance of sustaining and enhancing our precious soil and water resources. The following activities will be used to get the message to the public.

- School Outreach
- Landowner Recognition/Appreciation
- Community Event Outreach
- Landowner Services
- Training Activities
- Media and Legislative Outreach
- Informational Brochures - Mailings

#### *Regulatory Requirements and NR 151 Performance Standards*

There are several regulatory requirements and NR 151 performance standards and prohibitions that help ensure implementation of portions of the Crawford Land and Water Resources Management Plan. Crawford County prefers

landowners to voluntarily comply with regulations rather than face enforcement measures. The regulatory/performance standards in effect in Crawford County are listed below:

- *Land and Water Management Plan*
- *Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance (2012)*
- *Animal Waste Storage Ordinance (2025)*
- *Livestock Siting Ordinance (2017)*
- *Performance Standards: NR 151 Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions (2002, 2012, 2018) Implementation Strategy*
- *Private On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Ordinance (2018)*
- *Floodplain Zoning (2015) and Shoreland Wetland Zoning (2025) Ordinances*

#### *Partnership and Coordination*

Establishing and maintaining partnerships is very important to the conservation of land and water resources. The following conservation agencies are well suited to preserve, restore and enhance Crawford County's precious soil and water resources. The Crawford County Land Conservation Department will continue to work with the following agencies and groups to implement programs.

- USDA
- DNR
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- DATCP
- UW-Extension
- Valley Stewardship Network
- Crawford Stewardship Project

#### **Funding for Plan Implementation**

The Crawford County Land and Water Resources Plan is a document that can be used by all of the partners that help to meet the plan goals. The agencies and personnel that will be involved in the implementation of the plan are: Crawford County Land Conservation Department, UW-Extension NPM Staff Ag/Resource Agent, and USDA- FSA & NRCS Offices. A partial list of potential funding sources is included. Potential funding sources – including, but not limited to:

- *Private Sources*
- *Local Government Sources*
- *State Government Sources*
- *Federal Sources*

#### **Evaluation and Monitoring**

Measuring and evaluating activities identified in the plan is critical in order for the plan to be successful and ensure that the land and water resources of the County are protected. The Land Conservation Department and Committee will use the following tools to evaluate and monitor plan success.

#### *Water Quality Monitoring*

Crawford County has encouraged water quality monitoring by the Valley Stewardship Network in the Kickapoo River Watershed and will continue to cooperate with similar efforts. Outside of the Kickapoo River Valley, Crawford Stewardship Project has also been monitoring water quality on numerous other sensitive waters. A fledgling project of UW Extension Water Action Volunteers (WAV) began in the county in 2005 with participation from sports clubs and interest from area school classes. WAV data is tracked in the Citizen Monitoring Database maintained by UW Extension. The largest benefit of citizen monitoring is the increased awareness of county residents in the importance of good land stewardship and its impact on water quality.

#### *Geographic Information System (GIS)*

As Crawford County modernizes its land records, all NR 151 compliance evaluations will be recorded and tracked in a geo-database linked to tax parcel I.D. numbers. Manure storage permits, livestock facility siting permits, nonmetallic mining permits,

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Farmland Preservation Program participation, and CREP agreements and easements will also be linked to the tax parcels. Crawford County just recently established an FPP participant layer to help track compliance of that program.

*Annual Accomplishment Reports*

Financial data, installed practices, pollutant load data, information and education activities, and NR151 compliance will all be reported to DATCP and other agencies as required.

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# Crawford County Land and Water Resources Management Plan

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## Section 1: Introduction

Crawford County is keenly aware that its land and water resources are vital to the County's future. Protecting and enhancing the resources is a top priority and Crawford County supports and fosters locally led conservation efforts to protect the County's natural resources. The County, through the Land Conservation Department and Committee, will comply with Wisconsin Act 27 (the 1997-1999 Budget Bill) and Wisconsin Act 9 (the 2000-2001 Budget Bill), and amended Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes. It requires counties to develop and update Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans.

### Plan Background

Crawford County had its initial LWRM plan approved by the Land and Water Conservation Board in 2001 and subsequent updates in 2006, 2010, 2016, and now in 2026. Since completion of the original plan, resource concerns have continued to change. Some major trends and issues affecting Crawford County are:

- NR 151 is passed, creating agricultural and urban runoff performance standards and prohibitions
- Crawford County passed and is administering a nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance.
- Use Value Assessment has shifted taxes on the landscape impacting forest use, sometimes negatively
- Crawford County is cooperating with other agencies to provide technical support and administration for the Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program (CREP) that protects stream corridors
- Rotational grazing and low-cost milk parlor increases throughout the county
- Larger and more mechanized dairy production increases throughout the county
- Non-farm rural weekend residents are increasing in number along with the value of their residences and with their expectations for rural living education and services
- Citizens and agencies are increasingly concerned about invasive species
- Crawford County adopted a Comprehensive Plan meeting the requirements of Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" law
- Crawford County adopted a revised manure storage ordinance.
- Crawford County adopted their own Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance.

### Plan Development and Public Input

In 2008-2010 Crawford County undertook a public intensive comprehensive planning process to develop the "Crawford County Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029". In developing the County's Comprehensive Plan, the revision of the Crawford County Land and Water Resource Plan was recognized by the LCC and County Planning Committee as important and integral to the development of the County Comprehensive Plan. The Crawford County Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029 which was adopted on February 16, 2010, specifically references the revision of the County's Land and Water Resources Plan and the intention to gather public input from the County's comprehensive planning process. The following excerpt is from the "Crawford County Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029":

#### Goal B ► Protect surface and groundwater resources of Crawford County.

1. Support the revision and implementation of the Crawford County Land and Water Resources Plan. The Crawford County Land Conservation Department is beginning the process of updating the County Land and Water Resources Plan. During the comprehensive planning process utilize public input opportunities to gain resident input on the revision to the Crawford County Land and Water Resources Plan.

Residents, elected officials, and agencies clearly recognized that the economic and social fabric of the County is unequivocally tied to the land and water resources of Crawford County. As public input was gathered in the comprehensive planning process special attention was given to ensure input gathering methods addressed land and water resource concerns. Public input was gathered in the form of a comprehensive county survey, public informational meetings, a public hearing and additional planning meetings. It was intended that this information gathered be utilized not only to direct the goals and policies of the County comprehensive plan but to guide the revision of the County's Land and Water Resource Plan. Because Crawford County is very rural county there has not been a lot of changes that have taken place since the Comprehensive Plan was created. Therefore, public input that was gathered in the comprehensive planning process that addressed land and water resource concerns will again be taken into consideration.

### Committee/agency Involvement

The Crawford County Land Conservation Committee (membership listed in Appendix A) was the county committee which oversaw the plan update. This committee created a Land & Water Resource Management Plan Citizen Advisory Council to assist with the preparation of the updated plan. This committee was comprised of various county department personnel and other conservation agency staff, local citizens, and Land Conservation Committee members (membership listed in Appendix A). Both the County Land Conservation Committee and the Land & Water Plan Citizen Advisory Council meetings were notified to the public and were open meetings. Upon consideration of departmental reviews, personal experience, and review of the existing LWRMP plan, the advisory council identified the following issues to be the primary focus for this LWRMP Plan over the next ten years (2027-2036):

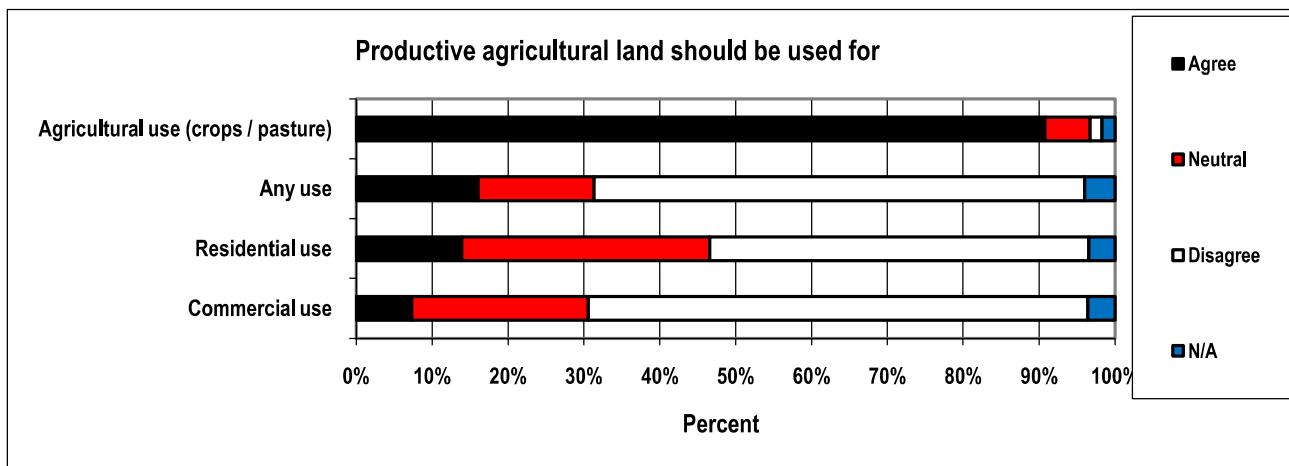
- ▶ Water quality and non-point source pollution.
- ▶ Impacts of inadequate land use planning
- ▶ Groundwater pollution and protection
- ▶ Nutrient Management education and research
- ▶ Preservation of land for agricultural use
- ▶ Preservation of forestlands to maintain their economic value
- ▶ Preservation of our native natural communities and wildlife habitat

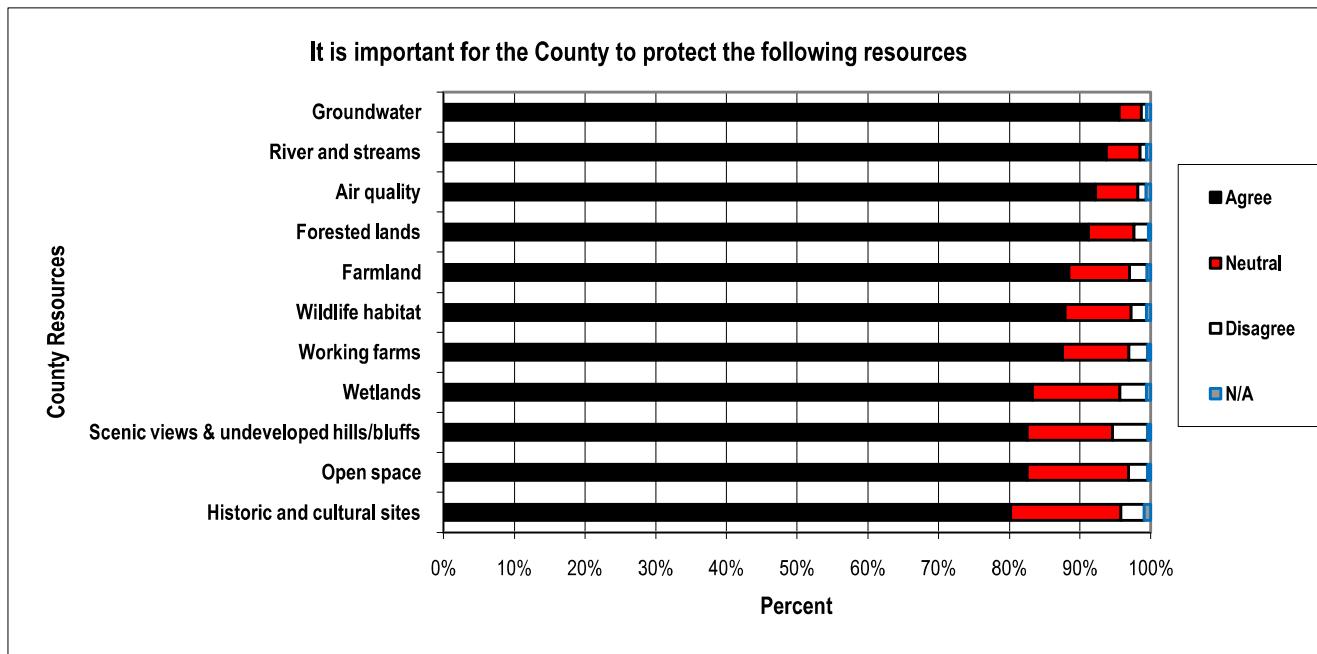
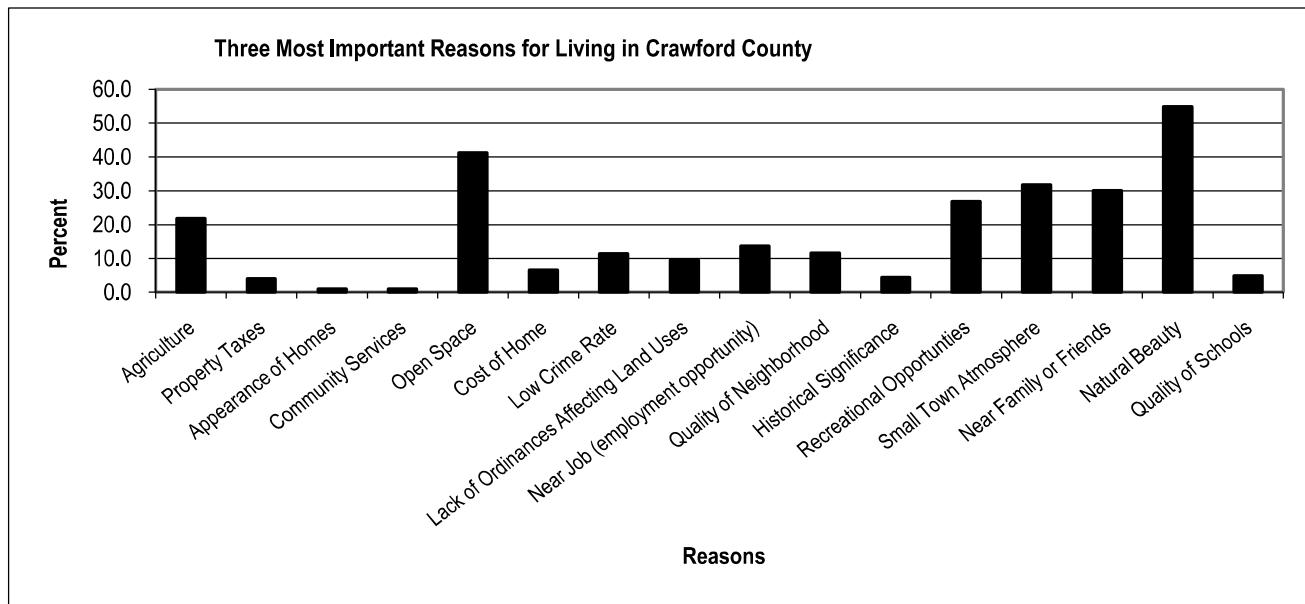
Crawford County Land Conservation Committee (membership listed in Appendix A) had the discussion of the plan as an agenda item on numerous meetings during the development of the plan. They discussed the goals from the previous Land and Water Plan and identified goals and objectives for the revised LWRMP Plan.

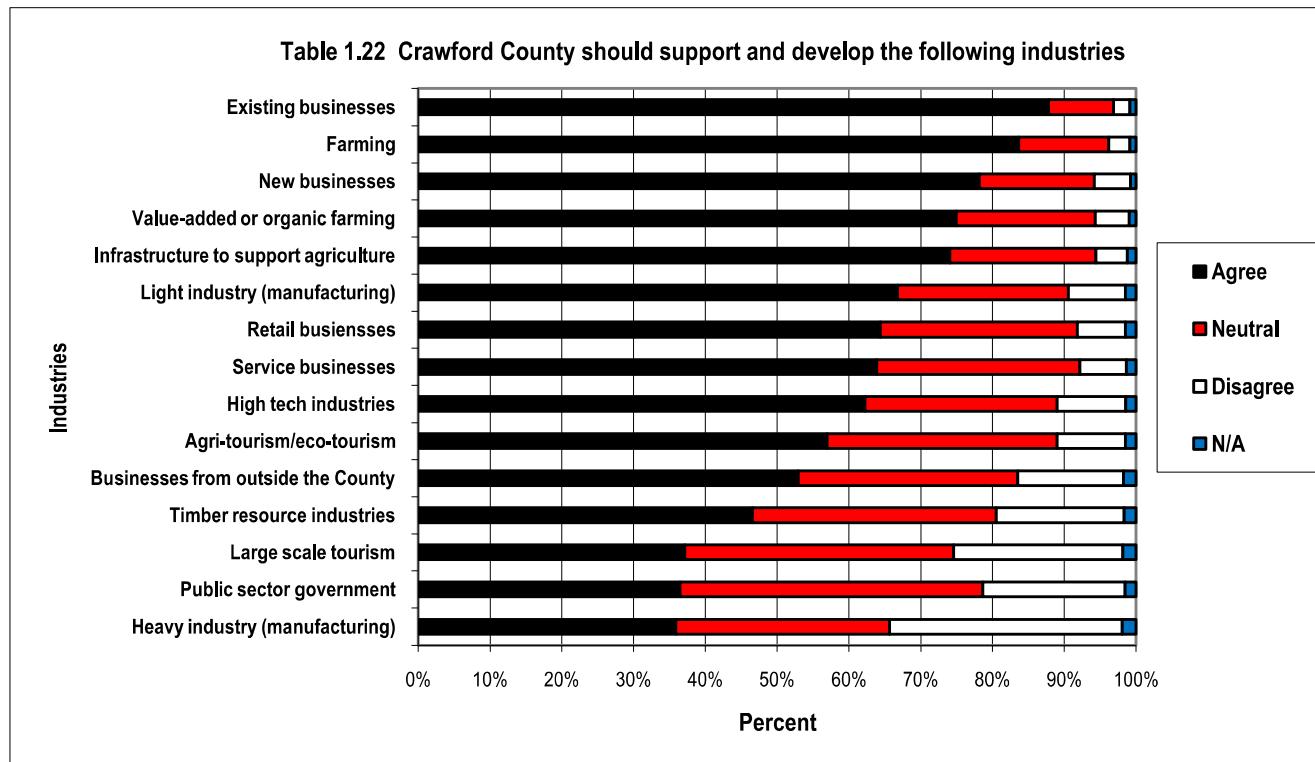
Additional agencies and departments requested to provide input on the LWRMP include UW Extension, Crawford County Zoning, NRCS staff, DNR local and regional staff were consulted and have been requested to provide input on the plan as drafts have been developed.

### Survey Information Pertaining to Natural Resources

In 2008, The Crawford County UW-Extension Economic Development Agent coordinated the distribution and tabulation of a county survey mailed to an estimated 5,657 Crawford County residences. Surveys were mailed to property owners in the unincorporated Towns of the County. In all, 5,657 surveys were mailed out and 1,325 were returned for a return rate of about 23%. The following tables illustrate the results as they pertain to the County's land and water resources. The survey results clearly show how important the land and water resources are to the residents. Crawford County will be conducting additional similar surveys as part of its Comprehensive Plan revisions by 2029 and will be considered in future LWRMP Plan revisions.







#### **Public Information Meeting Input Pertaining to Natural Resources**

In November of 2008 as part of the comprehensive planning process, a county wide public information meeting was held at the Seneca High School Gymnasium. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from residents pertaining to issues affecting the County. Tables were set up with poster boards displayed in which attendees were encouraged to write down their comments regarding the various planning topics. The following comments were received pertaining to land and water resources:

#### **What do you envision for land use, agriculture, natural or cultural resources?**

- Community cultural events- music dance, theater, arts
- Preserve grazing land and forest. No CAFOs
- Make this a model for other natural areas and learn from mistakes
- Small sustainable farming- bigger is not better
- The state government is pushing regulations on farms and energy that excludes local control. This is not what smart growth plan is supposed to be. We need to get state government to support us.
- Some control of breaking up plots to form scattered housing.
- How will the comp plan accommodate diversity in land use such as occasional/intentional community? Will zoning allow it?
- If actions at the town level need to “be consistent” with the town plan how can the town government meet the needs of residents- one township’s geography population and development potential may be very different from another towns, for instance.
- Help us prepare, share, protect the right of small producers and single families to feed themselves and their neighbors. Cities are unsustainable. These people are coming ready to welcome them.

#### **Other Plans Considered**

Several resource management plans have a relationship to this plan. Data from these plans were reviewed in the development of the Crawford County LWRM plan:

##### **1. Wisconsin Water Quality Report to Congress, 2024**

- Every two years, the state must publish an overall report on the quality of all surface waters across the state to satisfy requirements of the Clean Water Act

2. Crawford County Farmland Preservation Plan, 1982 (revised 2005 to include performance standards, fully updated in 2016)
  - This plan is to protect farmland from uncontrolled development, competing land uses, and promote sound conservation.
3. Crawford County Soil Erosion Control Plan, 1987
  - This plan met the requirements of Chapter 92 statutes to identify soil loss by county watersheds. It also details a plan of action and implementation to decrease soil erosion in priority areas, which at that time found the top three priority watersheds were the Gran Grae/ Little Kickapoo Watershed, the Tainter/Johnson Watershed, and the Plum/ Otter Watershed.
4. Hydrologic Assessment of the Kickapoo Watershed, 1998
  - This plan was written by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and the UW Department of Geological engineering for the Trout Unlimited Home Rivers Initiative project in the Kickapoo Watershed. It assesses the hydrologic state of the area and makes recommendations for improvement.

## **Plan Goals**

Based on public input gathered through the County's comprehensive plan survey, public meetings, committee meetings and review of past land and water resource documents, the following goals for the revised LWRM plan have been prepared. The goals are categorized under five resource concerns that summarize the issues affecting the County. Within the plan, objectives and action items are identified in an effort to meet each goal.

### **Soil Erosion**

- Goal 1: Maintain soil erosion on all cropland to "T".
- Goal 2: Reduce erosion on land other than cropland.
- Goal 3: Increase money available for cost-sharing to install practices to prevent erosion.

### **Water Resources**

- Goal 1: Preserve, protect, restore and enhance surface water, groundwater and riparian areas.
- Goal 2: Implement NR151 Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions Strategy via implementation of Section 4 of this plan.
- Goal 3: Increase funding for cost-sharing and demonstration projects.

### **Land Use Planning**

- Goal 1: Work with the towns on the implementation of their comprehensive plans.
- Goal 2: Promote and support local land use planning to protect the natural resources of the county.
- Goal 3: Improve and protect the quality of natural resources by the judicious and economic use of nutrients.
- Goal 4: Utilize Floodplain and Shoreland/ Wetland Zoning to protect our natural resources

### **Land Management**

- Goal 1: Encourage sustainable forestry practices that improve our unique ecosystems.
- Goal 2: Protect and enhance important wildlife habitat areas.
- Goal 3: Limit wildlife damage to crops.

### **Waste Disposal**

- Goal 1: Provide hazardous waste recycling/disposal opportunities.

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## Section 2: History, Background Information and Resource Assessment

### History and Background Information

The County is located in Southwest Wisconsin and is part of the Driftless Area, an area that escaped the most recent glacial advance some 10,000 years ago. The glaciers melt water created the Driftless Area that is known for its rugged topography creating scenic bluffs and valleys. The County is approximately 586 square miles in size. Its boundary on the west is the Mississippi River and its boundary to the south is the Wisconsin River. The County is bisected from North to South by the Scenic Kickapoo River.



**A view of Crawford County's Rolling Landscape**

The first known inhabitants of Crawford County were prehistoric Native American tribes, including the Ho-Chunk, Sioux, Fox, and Dakota. Traces of their presence have enhanced the cultural history in the form of artifacts, archeological remains, and animal-shaped burial mounds, some of which are preserved for public viewing at Effigy Mounds National Monument across the river north of Marquette, Iowa.

Explorers Marquette and Joliet were the first European explorers to arrive in Crawford County in 1673. Voyageurs, entrepreneurs, and traders of French, British, and American descent followed and developed military interests in the area. They explored the land and sought fortune, trading their goods at their annual meetings of traders and trappers still celebrated today. The French called the area 'Coulee de Male', hence the name of the area today as the Coulee region. Many stayed to live out their lives in this special area, and it soon became an established and well-known region. Crawford County was created on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1818, from a territory of the Michigan legislature. Named after William H. Crawford, a Georgia senator and James Monroe's Treasurer at the time, Crawford County covered the entire western half of Wisconsin. At this time, the County covered all land north of the Wisconsin River, but it was later divided to such an extent as to become one of the smallest counties in the state. In 1836 the County was transferred to the newly formed Wisconsin Territory as Michigan prepared for statehood.

Today there are 11 town governments in the county ranging in size from the Town of Bridgeport's 23 square miles to the Town of Freeman that covers 78 square miles. The county also has 10 villages ranging in size from De Soto's 1.3 square miles to the

Village of Steuben with 6 square miles. The City of Prairie du Chien is approximately 6 square miles in size and is the only local government that is incorporated as a City. As of 2023, Crawford County's population was estimated at 15,944, down 700 people, or 4.2%, from the 2010 census figure of 16,644.

### **Agriculture Snapshot**

The following tables illustrate historical trends in agriculture over the past 30 years. Table 2-1 shows that the total number of farms in Crawford County was increasing from 1992 until 2007 but has since been decreasing. Crawford County has fewer farms than they did in 1992. The table also illustrates that farms are being fragmented as the number of farms over 180 acres has substantially decreased over the 30-year period. Also interesting to note is that the primary occupation of the principal operator being a farmer is also decreasing. These trends mirror the changes that are occurring across the state.

**Table 2-1 Farms by Size and Type (Crawford County)**

Year	Farms by Size						Principal Operator by Primary Occupation	
	1-9 Acres	10-49 Acres	50-179 Acres	180-499 Acres	500-999 Acres	1,000+ Acres	Total	Farming
1992	56	80	296	443	88	15	978	689
1997	33	90	322	424	74	15	958	570
2002	42	202	532	409	70	23	1,278	700
2007	54	303	565	347	59	19	1,347	545
2012	31	235	472	291	53	23	1,105	481
2017	39	217	445	236	70	27	1,034	-No Data-
2022	49	205	343	215	60	27	899	-No Data-

Census of Agriculture - County Data - USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service

Table 2-2 illustrates cropland information for Crawford County. The table shows that corn production has remained relatively stable over the 32-year period. However, the acres of hay harvested has been cut in half over the period while soybean production has gone from 78,000 bushels in 1990 to 884,971 bushels in 2022.

**Table 2-2 Crawford County Changes in Crop Acres and Production**

Year	Corn for Grain		Corn for Silage		Hay All (dry)		Soybeans	
	Harvested (acres)	Production (bushel)	Acres Harvested	Production (tons)	Acres Harvested	Production (tons)	Harvested (acres)	Production (bushel)
1990	31,000	3,830,000	4,100	65,000	57,300	166,900	1,400	78,000
1995	22,900	2,539,000	6,600	88,100	45,600	123,000	2,200	103,600
2000	23,600	3,157,000	5,600	90,800	37,700	126,100	9,800	463,000
2005	26,700	4,650,000	4,500	93,000	34,100	96,800	12,800	683,000
2007	28,800	4,340,000	4,100	74,000	29,300	74,500	12,800	572,000
2012	31,576	3,813,598	4,615	65,681	29,629	82,529	15,002	546,586
2017	28,502	4,766,355	4,463	85,627	24,039	63,491	18,576	800,293
2022	27,904	4,708,427	2,709	52,471	20,086	45,901	17,481	884,971

USDA-National Agriculture Statistics Service

Table 2-3 illustrates that the number of milk cows, cattle, and hogs all have greatly decreased since 1990. Both milk cows and hogs have decreased by over 50 percent, while cattle decreased by around 46 percent. In addition, annual milk production also decreased by over 50%.

**Table 2-3 Livestock Changes (Crawford County)**

Year	Milk Cows		Cattle	Hogs All
	Annual Milk Production	Annual Average Milk Cows		
1990	244,480	19,100	53,500	20,900
1995	209,250	15,500	47,000	14,000
2000	180,180	11,700	40,000	9,500
2005	150,720	9,600	39,000	8,500
2007	146,940	9,300	37,500	7,000
2012	135,240	8,400	35,500	-No Data-
2017	-No Data-	-No Data-	31,506	6,986
2022	117,760	6,200	28,746	-No Data-

USDA-National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Quick Stats

A NASS CropScape map can be found in Appendix D and shows a visual representation of Crawford County's 2024 agricultural commodities and their distribution throughout the county.

### **Geography and Geology**

Crawford County's deeply dissected valleys characterize the driftless area with elevation changes from valley floor to ridge top averaging 300-400 feet. The steep forested hillsides give way to narrow agricultural lands on the valley floor and ridge tops. Two main north-south ridges in the county define the Kickapoo River Valley. State Highway 27 is located on the westernmost ridge. Many rock outcroppings can be seen throughout the county on steep hillsides. Fractured bedrock of dolomitic limestone and porous sandstone are allowing rapid water movement to aquifers once water reaches those layers. Karst topography, which includes caves and sinkholes, is common in the area which can raise additional significant groundwater protection issues. Area sinkhole/ karst feature and bedrock depth maps can be found in Appendix D.

### **Resource Assessment**

A key to planning and understanding land and water resources is to have an assessment of the resources. The following information has been gathered to provide a clear picture of the land and water resources and their condition.

#### **County Soils**

In general, there are five soil areas, Uplands, Sandy terraces, Silty terraces, Silty bottoms, and Alluvial.

The Uplands are made up mainly of Fayette and Dubuque soils. Where ridges predominate, the soils are on rolling ridgetops in uplands that are deeply dissected. Slopes are predominantly 5 to 15 percent. Steep, stony areas have many escarpments of bedrock. Slopes are between 30 and 60 percent.



Principal soils in the Sandy terraces are those of the Dakota and Sparta series. They are nearly level and are in two areas of the county. One is by Prairie du Chien and is a nearly level plain underlain by acid sand and gravel. The Mississippi River deposited the coarse-textured underlying materials at the time of the Wisconsin glacier. The other is along the northern half of the Kickapoo River. They are subject to serious erosion and in places runoff has cut deep gullies far into the terraces.

Soil preservation is important to crop production.

Silty Terraces have silty soils on highly dissected terraces, or benches. The Bridgeport Terraces lies about 120 ft. above the Wisconsin River and occupies approximately 4,200 acres. Other terraces go up the Wisconsin and Kickapoo valleys. The Citron and Haney Valley consist of old channels formed by the meandering Kickapoo River. The Hogback Prairie State Natural Area is an oxbow feature now preserved by the Wisconsin DNR for its unique topography, fauna, and flora.

Silty soils on bottomlands are generally Arenzville, Orion, and Chaseburg. They are in the major drainage ways in the interior of the county. They are productive but their use is limited due to occasional flooding.

Alluvial land has wet sandy soils on the bottoms of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Its texture varies but is mainly silt, coarse sand, and gravel. It has a high, fluctuating water table.

### ***Cropland and Gully Erosion***

Crawford County has had several inventories and surveys that have determined cropland soil loss rates. Midwest Reclamation Planners completed a Soil Erosion Control Plan in 1987 and calculated an average erosion rate of 8.5-tons/acre/year-soil loss, this figure is above the T-value or allowable soil loss limit of 5.0 tons/acre/year on average. With the advent of the USDA 1985 Farm Bill and the Farmland Preservation Program conservation compliance implementation as major conservation practice generators in Crawford County, soil loss rates had been *reduced* to an average of 2.2-tons/acre/year-soil loss as figured in the 2009 Crawford County transect survey. Crawford County has not conducted a transect survey since 2009, though will consider surveying again in the near future. Each year the Crawford County LCD and NRCS assist producers in laying out additional contour strips, which will also greatly aid in reducing erosion. Producers in Crawford County are utilizing more and more no-till planting as well. According to the 2022 National Agricultural Statistics Service census, 27% of producers are utilizing no-till practices and another 19% are utilizing reduced tillage practices, an increase of 2% and 3% respectively from the 2017 census data.

Gully erosion continues to be an elusive measurement to gather. Sheet and rill erosion from cropland continues to have the majority of attention from such measurement tools as the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE II). Administrative rule (ATCP 50.04) and NRCS policy both require the use of RUSLE II. Gully erosion methods have not undergone change for two decades. Because of the deeply carved hills and valleys in Crawford County measurements are a guess at best.

### ***Animal Waste***

Barnyard runoff and land spreading of manure (especially on frozen ground) are the two principal sources of animal waste pollution in Crawford County streams and wells. Bacteria, sediment, ammonia, and nutrients are the major culprits that foul county water and cause or contribute to water quality impairments and risks to public health.

Crawford County farmers have followed a statewide trend and expanded their operations, resulting in fewer barnyards and more confined herds. The result is fewer barnyard issues, but more land spreading problems, especially in late winter and early spring. Currently, sixteen dairies in the county average between 100 and 200 cows milked daily with approximately a third confining the herd and two thirds using pasture in their management. The rotational grazing community is growing and is beyond 35% of the dairies and milking approximately 20% of the estimated 14,000 cows in the county (source – UW Extension, USDA-NRCS, LCD discussions, 2025). Properly managed grazing has been shown to greatly reduce overland flow of waste to waters of the state.

### ***Nutrient Management***

When farming started in Crawford County, animal manure was a valuable commodity. It was stacked, saved, and spread to increase crop yields. As commercial fertilizer became available, manure became a waste product, not fit to haul any distance. The pendulum has swung back to the valuable side for manure. As soil health is better understood, and environmental regulatory pressures are brought to bear, animal waste is again being managed more carefully.

Poorly managed nutrients can wash into county wells or into nearby surface waters. The Crawford County Land Conservation Department helps distribute private well testing kits, screening primarily for nitrates and coliform bacteria.

Southwest Technical College conducts annual training for Crawford County farmers to become certified to prepare their own nutrient management plans. In addition, cost sharing has been available through the Land Conservation Department and NRCS' EQIP program to hire consultants to write nutrient management plans. The percentage of crop ground covered by a nutrient management plan has increased from less than 1% in 2010 to 21% in 2024. Of the 16,064 acres covered by a NMP in 2024, the majority of the acres fall within the Rush Creek, Tainter Creek, and Kickapoo River Watersheds due to Farmland Preservation Zoning within the Towns of Freeman, Utica, and Haney.

### **Watersheds**

There are seven primary watersheds in Crawford County: Tainter Creek- Kickapoo River Watershed, Kickapoo River Watershed, Knapp Creek Watershed, City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River Watershed, Wisconsin River Watershed, Bloody Run- Mississippi River Watershed, and Rush Creek- Mississippi River Watershed (for map, see Appendix D).

*The Tainter Creek- Kickapoo River Watershed* lies within the north-central part of Crawford County. All waters flow to the Kickapoo. Much of the acreage is wooded. The remainder is either agriculture or private property not farmed. A multi-million dollar apple industry is located on the ridge east and west of Gays Mills. Agriculture strongly persists here with recreational ownership not as advanced as in other areas of the county. An eclectic population is very active in land use policy. Eroding stream banks are common. Many of the riparian areas hold DNR fishing easements.



*The Kickapoo River Watershed* in south central Crawford County includes all streams that flow to the Kickapoo between Gays Mills and Wauzeka. Several shallow oxbow lakes can be found adjacent to the Kickapoo. Almost half of the acreage is woodland.

*The Knapp Creek Watershed*, on the eastern border of the county, overlaps into Richland County and drains to the Wisconsin River above Boscobel. There are no major municipalities in this watershed. The Crawford portion of the watershed is mostly wooded.

*The City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River Watershed* is south of the Knapp Creek and east of the Kickapoo River Watersheds and is found in the southeast corner of Crawford County, encompassing the area around the City of Boscobel and the unincorporated community of Mt. Zion. This watershed is a mix of agricultural and forest land and drains into the Wisconsin River at and below the City of Boscobel.

**The Kickapoo River near Gays Mills**

*The Wisconsin River Watershed* extends from the mouth of the Wisconsin River upstream to Wauzeka on both sides of the river and includes a portion of Grant County. Much of the acreage is forested. The remainder is either in agriculture or private property not farmed. There are significant wetlands in the floodplain near the mouth of the Wisconsin River.

The Bloody Run- Mississippi River Watershed is located in the southwestern corner of the county and extends from the City of Prairie du Chien north towards the Lynxville Dam and accepts all drainage west of Highway 27. This watershed contains a lot of steep, rugged hillsides. Along the river above Highway 35, there are numerous west-facing dry bluff prairies. Many of these prairies are being taken over by red cedar and various types of brush.

*The Rush Creek- Mississippi River Watershed* is in the northwestern corner of the county and extends west from Highway 27 toward the Mississippi River. It has steeply wooded hillsides with narrow ridge tops and valleys. Rock outcrops along the bluffs facing the Mississippi are common. The scenic beauty found in the watershed has attracted many new landowners that have built seasonal and permanent homes. Most streams in this watershed are trout streams with eroding stream banks and lack of adequate trout habitat. Purple loosestrife is a widespread exotic invader (source - Wisconsin Wetlands Assn.). Biological control methods have been used in this watershed to help control the purple loosestrife, though dense stands persist throughout. There are many small steep prairies on the bluffs that create a unique climate for rare flora and fauna, including the Rush Creek State

Natural Area owned and protected by the WI DNR. The Mississippi Valley Conservancy is also active here purchasing conservation easements.

#### Watershed Rankings and DNR Basin Plan Recommendations

Crawford County contains all or part of seven watersheds as delineated by DNR. These watersheds are part of two different river basins, managed as Geographic Management Units (GMUs) by DNR. These watersheds are designated Low, Medium, High, or Not Ranked in the Basin plans as a priority for projects to curb Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution.

Under the Clean Water Act, states must submit 303 (d) lists of impaired waters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the purpose of developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The following table summarizes the impaired waters in Crawford County. A map of the county's impaired waters can be found in Appendix D.

**Table 2-4 Crawford County Impaired Waters (303d) List**

Waterbody Name	Watershed	Length Impaired	Reason for Impairment
Halls Branch	Kickapoo River	3 miles	Sediment
Kickapoo River	Kickapoo River	6 miles	Phosphorus
Mississippi River	Rush Creek- Mississippi River & Bloody Run- Mississippi River	All in Crawford County	Mercury, PCB, Phosphorus
Richland Creek	City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River	All	Phosphorus
Tainter Creek	Tainter Creek- Kickapoo River	All in Crawford County	Elevated Temperature
Unnamed Tributary to Knapp Creek	City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River	All	Phosphorus
Wisconsin River	Wisconsin River & City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River	All in Crawford County	Mercury, PCB

#### ***Hydrology and Fish Habitat***

The streams of Crawford County are defined and greatly influenced by the steep topography of the area. This terrain creates a higher risk for erosion and delivery of sediment and nutrients to surface waters. Seven watersheds, defined by the Wisconsin DNR, lie within the county: Tainter Creek- Kickapoo River Watershed, Kickapoo River Watershed, Knapp Creek Watershed, City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River Watershed, Wisconsin River Watershed, Bloody Run- Mississippi River Watershed, and Rush Creek- Mississippi River Watershed.



A rip rap project in the County

Crawford County contains approximately 415 miles of streams (recent source – DNR personnel) (excluding the Mississippi River), with 55 different streams totaling 308.12 miles (or 74%) classified as trout streams. See Table 2-5 for a list of trout streams located in Crawford County. Of these, 186.14 miles of streams (or 45% of all streams) are classified Class I trout streams. Class I trout streams are those streams which have sufficient natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout, at or near carry capacity. Consequently, streams in this category require no stocking of hatchery trout. There are no natural lakes in the county. There is a map of the different trout stream classifications in the county located in Appendix D.

**Table 2-5 Trout Streams in Crawford County**

Baker Creek	Halls Branch Creek	Plum Creek
Bear Creek	Hoover Hollow Creek	Richland Creek
Boydtown Creek	Kickapoo River	Rush Creek
Buck Creek	Knapp Creek	Sand Creek
Citron Creek	Leitner Creek	South Branch Copper Creek
Clear Creek	Little Kickapoo Creek	South Fork Sugar Creek
Cooley Creek	Nederlo Creek	Sugar Creek
Copper Creek	North Branch Copper Creek	Tainter Creek
Du Charme Creek	Otter Creek	Trout Creek
East Branch Richland Creek	Picatee Creek	Upper Copper Creek
English Run	Pigeon Run	West Fork Knapp Creek
Gran Grae Creek	Pine Creek	20 Unnamed Creeks

Because of the topography of Crawford County, sediment from eroding streambanks is a major contributor to the degradation of the county's surface waters. Streambank erosion occurs naturally at many sites. It is caused by steep stream gradients, which result in high stream velocities. Sites not pastured for extended periods typically grow trees and other woody vegetation that replace dense grass cover. This woody vegetation cover instead of a grass cover results in barer ground which erodes easier. Trees fall into streams and further accelerate the process.

Although streambank erosion occurs naturally, the problems are accelerated by erosive land use activities. According to Monroe County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan (2018), a Middle Kickapoo River Watershed Inventory showed that 66% of the degraded streambanks in the watershed had agricultural erosive impacts. This is a reasonable figure to apply to Crawford County.

#### ***Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters of Crawford County***

The creation of Chapter NR 207 "Water Quality Standards for Wisconsin Surface Water," allows the Department of Natural Resources to classify high quality streams as outstanding resource waters (ORW) or exceptional resource waters (ERW). Waters designated as Outstanding Resource Water or Exceptional Resource Water are surface waters which provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality, and are not significantly impacted by human activities. A map of Crawford County's Exceptional Resource Waters can be found in Appendix D.

**Table 2-6 Exceptional Resource Waters of Crawford County**

Stream Name	Watershed	Miles	ORW/ERW
Boydtown Creek	Knapp Creek	.7	ERW
Cooley Creek	Rush Creek	All	ERW
Copper Creek	Rush Creek	All	ERW
Plum Creek	Lower Kickapoo River	All	ERW
South Branch Copper Creek	Rush Creek	All	ERW
Tainter Creek (County B to County Line)	Reads / Tainter Creek	4.8	ERW
Wisconsin River	Several	All	ERW
Sugar Creek (S10) upstream	Rush Creek	7	ERW

Crawford County currently has no water body designated Outstanding Resource Water.

#### ***The Blackhawk/Kickapoo Dam #6***

Crawford County actively operates and maintains one large, earthen embankment flood control dam built under the federal program PL566 in partnership with USDA/NRCS. The county follows a designated inspection schedule, hiring a professional

consultant some years and having a DNR inspection every 10 years. Reduction of serious flash flooding in Johnstown valley in the north central part of the county is the primary purpose of the dam. The dam does not permanently impound water. Nederlo Creek flows through the structure.

### ***Wetlands***

Crawford County has experienced a decline in the number and quality of wetlands (source – NRCS). The DNR wetland inventory (1979) shows 27,331 acres or 7.5% of the total county acreage as wetlands, the majority located along major stream corridors and in the lower Kickapoo River system as it approaches the confluence with the Wisconsin River.



Wetlands are vital for flood storage and ground water regeneration.

Substantial wetland acreage occurs along the Mississippi and Wisconsin River valleys and are managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Mississippi and the DNR in the Wisconsin River Valley. The Wisconsin DNR and the US Army Corp of Engineers require mitigation (a creation) when natural wetland sites are destroyed. State and federal programs, primarily the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) administered by the NRCS have been available to cost-share with private landowners who wish to return their ditched, tiled, or drained fields to wetlands. Very few landowners are continuing to participate in this program.

### ***Forest Land***

Most of Crawford County's forests grow on productive, silt loam soils. Hardwoods dominate the landscape. 50% of Crawford County's 184,400 acres are forested. That is an increase from the 1980 inventory, of 47%. This increase can be attributed to field abandonment, conversion to pasture, tree planting and changes in inventory criteria.

Over 93% of the forested lands in Crawford County are privately owned. Fragmentation of land and use value assessment have had an impact on forest land in the County. Impacts include:



#### *Land Fragmentation*

Subdividing land into smaller parcels results in the property having management issues for certain forestry practices. The fragmentation and selling of parcels to multiple landowners impacts the County's forestland. In many cases once forestland is sold its use changes to a residential parcel or a recreational parcel. Upon this happening the property is more actively used and forest management is often overlooked. The activity many times disrupts wildlife habitat and due to mismanagement (in most cases unintended) invasive species thrive, and the productivity of the forest is reduced.

Land fragmentation impacts forest and ag

#### *Use Value Assessment*

Overgrazing of livestock in woodlands remains an important issue for forest managers. Livestock in the woods compact the soils, trample and eat young trees, damage larger ones and generally reduce the productivity of most woodlands. The shift in Wisconsin's use value assessment has put pressure on landowners to pasture woods to change their highly assessed "recreational land" into cropland. This threatens to reverse some of the progress made in recent years to restrict livestock from more productive woodlands. However, the change has caused an increase of enrollees in the Wisconsin DNR's Managed Forest

Law Program that reduces their taxes while requiring a responsible woodland management plan. As of January 1, 2025, a total of 798 properties have 49,050 acres of forestland enrolled into the Managed Forest Law Program.

### ***Climate Change***

According to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) 2021 Assessment Report, Wisconsin is becoming generally warmer and wetter and the decades ahead are likely to bring changes much more profound than those seen so far, according to climate models. In both Wisconsin and specifically Crawford County, the average annual temperature rose about 3° Fahrenheit since 1950. The average precipitation in Wisconsin has increased by 17 percent since 1950, with the southern half of the state, including Crawford County, showing a 20 percent increase in that time frame. According to the WICCI report, the amount of water that flowed into the Mississippi River in 2019 was double the historical average. Several climate change maps can be found in Appendix D.

The state's climate scientists suggest that Wisconsin's warming trend will not only continue, but it will also increase considerably by the middle of this century. Wisconsin climatologists say the state is likely to continue its trend toward more precipitation overall, with the most probable increases in winter, spring, and fall. The projected increase in annual rainfall and more intense rainstorms heighten the potential for significant soil erosion in the Driftless Area, affecting water resources and agriculture. Without appropriate adaptation measures, future soil erosion rates could double by 2050 compared to 1990 rates. Agricultural lands hold enormous capacity for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including capacity to efficiently help reduce flood events at or below the 25-year/storm threshold, manage flood waters, mitigate risks to public health, and restore or improve water quality. According to the Environmental Impact Statements conducted in Vernon and Monroe Counties for the removal of several of their PL-566 dams, the 25-year/storm threshold was confirmed and would apply to similar watersheds and dam conditions within Crawford County. Changes in temperature and precipitation could affect Wisconsin's growing seasons, crop yields, weed and pest infestations, and animal productivity.

### ***Invasive Species***

County citizens have become more aware of invasive plants and animal species. The public is becoming more aware of new threats and is willing to get involved in control measures. Crawford County has been involved in several projects in attempts to control invasives and spread the word on how important of an issue it is. Some of the biggest threats include garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle, wild parsnip, crown vetch, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, Japanese hops, and Japanese knotweed. There are numerous funding sources available to help control invasive species, especially if it is an aquatic invasive species. Currently, the Crawford County Land Conservation Department utilizes WI DNR funding to hire an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator to conduct Clean Boats, Clean Waters outreach efforts. Spongy moth and Emerald Ash Borer are pests that pose a great threat to the County's forested lands. Spongy moths are not abundant in the County but continue to be a growing threat as they spread from the east. The WDNR operates a Spongy moth suppression program with a goal to stop the spread of the insect. The Emerald Ash Borer is a major threat to ash trees in the county, region and state. As EAB has been found in several sites in the county, Crawford is now included in the "EAB Quarantine Area". This means that no firewood is allowed to be transported out of the county. Once detected the state implements plans to deal with infestations. Unfortunately to date, methods to control the spread of the ash borer have had limited success.

### ***Groundwater Well Monitoring***

Crawford County has made an effort in recent years to increase the amount of private well testing occurring in the county. The Crawford County Land Conservation Department and Health Department have partnered with Vernon and Richland Counties on a multi-county effort, known as the Driftless Area Water Study (DAWS), to spread awareness of the importance of regular well testing and to increase the amount of well testing data throughout the area. Collected data shows numbers similar, if not slightly better, to statewide averages in regard to nitrate and bacteria contamination. Data from the four rounds of testing is shown in Table 2-7. Collected data will be entered into the statewide Well Water Quality Viewer website and thus bolster the existing Crawford County dataset. Crawford County will be able to assess and track nitrate levels over time, which can be used to help focus soil and water conservation practices within specific areas of the county with high nitrate wells. Crawford County will look to continue coordinating county-level private well testing efforts and will seek out grant opportunities to hopefully cover landowner expenses for the sampling analyses. Crawford County well testing result maps from the UWSP- Well Water Viewer and a DAWS project nitrate map can be found in Appendix D.

**Table 2-7 Coordinated Well Testing Results in Crawford County**

	October 2020		April 2021		November 2022		November 2024	
NITRATE mg/L	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Not Detected</b>	18	20	21	22	10	27	33	100
<b>&lt;=2.0</b>	32	36	32	34	10	27		
<b>2.1- 5.0</b>	22	25	23	24	11	30		
<b>5.1- 10.0</b>	11	12	10	11	4	11		
<b>10.1- 20.0</b>	6	7	6	6	2	5	0	0
<b>&gt;20.0</b>	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Average Nitrate</b>	2.9	-	3.1	-	2.6	-	-	-
<b>Coliform Bacteria present</b>	22	25	10	11	10	27	13	26
<b>E. coli positives</b>	4	18	0	0	1	10	1	8
<b>Total Samples</b>	89	-	94	-	37	-	49	-

\*\*Please note that the November 2024 testing did not produce results that showed each specific samples nitrate level, just a cumulative summary of the number of wells above or below the 10 mg/L health standard.

## 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 Soil & Water Concerns Committee, Crawford County Land & Water Plan Advisory Council, Crawford County departmental staff, USDA-NRCS Field Office staff, the WI-DNR Forestry staff, the UWEX Ag/Resource Agent, and other local groups and agencies.

#### County Land & Water Plan Advisory Council

- As the Crawford County Land and Water Plan was being updated, this committee was used to provide technical expertise to the process and were the primary drafters of this plan. These meetings took place in the spring and summer of 2025.

#### Land Conservation Committee:

- The Committee reviewed past goals, objectives and actions at several Spring of 2025 meetings and based on public input from the comprehensive planning process discussed revisions. 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. At its December 9, 2025, meeting, the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) reviewed and approved the plan in draft form.

#### Land Conservation Staff:

- Throughout the LWRM plan review process staff provided input and assisted with updating information.
- Had members on the Land & Water Plan Advisory Council.

#### USDA-NRCS Staff:

- Sent draft of revised plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Had a member on the Land & Water Plan Advisory Council.
- Continued contact throughout review process.

#### WI-DNR Forestry staff:

- Sent draft of revised plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Had a member on the Land & Water Plan Advisory Council.

#### UWEX Staff:

- Sent draft of revised plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Had a member on the Land & Water Plan Advisory Council.

#### WI – DNR Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator:

- Sent draft plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Had a member on the Land & Water Plan Advisory Council.

#### Crawford Stewardship Project:

- Sent draft of revised plan and requested review of goals, objectives and actions.
- Had a member on the Land & Water Plan Advisory Council.

## Land and Water Management 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 five categories that address protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural resources of Crawford County. Located in Appendix B is the Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management Plan “Action Plan” that provides greater detail regarding implementation funding, responsibility, and priorities. The Land Conservation Department will use this LWRM Plan to create an annual work plan, which will be submitted to DATCP each spring during the SWRM Grant application process. Also during this application process, the LCD will submit an accomplishment report for the previous year.

## 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 hay land during the same period. When comparing the entire county's average production from 1990-2000 to that from 2012-2022, Table 2-2 in this plan shows that the average corn grain production has risen from 3,175,000 bushels to 4,429,460 bushels. Looking at similar soybean data, average production has risen from 214,866 bushels to 743,950 bushels, an increase of 346%. The average hay production decreased from 138,667 tons to 63,974 tons, a decrease of 46%. One of the principal reasons for these changes is a decrease in the number of dairy farms.

The Crawford County Soil Erosion Control Plan (1987) estimated the county wide average cropland erosion rate at 2.2 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. Increasing large-volume precipitation events in Crawford County, such as those in August 2019, June 2021, and March 2024, have caused widely noticed sheet, rill, and gully erosion. The Rush Creek-Mississippi River Watershed has taken the brunt of these recent storms. More waterways and effective use of good ground cover and contour strips are needed. Soil erosion rates for watersheds based on soil transect surveys conducted in 2009 can be found in Table 3.1. \*Note that Crawford County now tracks HUC-10 watersheds so boundaries and names are slightly different than they were at this time.

**Table 3-1 Soil Erosion Rates (2009)**

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 Creeks	18,334	37,186	2.8
Knapp Creek	18,868	49,885	1.7

Crawford County conducted an annual countywide transect survey from 1999-2009. Moving forward, Crawford County may use the transect survey to model erosion rates in specific watersheds. Nutrient Management Planning and the Snap+ software will also aid in tracking soil loss patterns in the Towns of Freeman, Haney, and Utica, where Farmland Preservation has resulted in a higher percentage of farms covered by a Nutrient Management Plan. Watersheds within those towns would include the Rush Creek- Mississippi River Watershed, the Tainter Creek- Kickapoo Watershed, and the Kickapoo Watershed. By 2030, Crawford County will have a better idea of which soil erosion prediction method is best suited for the county and will continue to utilize that tool going forward.



Cropland is a vital resource to the County

It is important that soil erosion issues on land other than croplands are 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. Sediment can also cover trout spawning beds which negatively affects natural reproduction in streams.

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 soil erosion reduction efforts, they are: Crawford County Land Conservation staff, WI DNR NPS staff, USDA-NRCS Field Office staff, USDA-FSA staff, WI DNR Forestry staff, UWEX Ag/Resource Agents, 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 on all cropland.

**Actions:**

1. Use Nutrient Management Planning to track soil erosion estimates on 500 acres per year.
2. Maintain a database of soil erosion estimates.
3. Compare aerial photos, LiDAR data, and Nutrient Management Plan data to assess changes over time at 10 farms.

**Objective B**

Inform and educate landowners on soil and water conservation practices.

**Actions:**

1. Provide specialized outreach information to absentee landowners annually.
2. Annually update and distribute a model rental contract with soil erosion prevention items in it.
3. Create an information packet on conservation programs, practices, and agencies to provide to landowners, and update it annually.
4. Work one-on-one and provide outreach information to landowners as they call or visit.
5. Develop an outreach packet for realtors and title companies to give to new rural landowners.

**Objective C**

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

**Actions:**

1. Write 5 annual conservation plans and treat cropland to tolerable soil loss levels or less.
2. Provide technical assistance to landowners to install 500 acres of contour strips and contour buffer strips per year.
3. Promote no-till, zone-till, and reduced tillage systems, as well as cover crops with 15 landowners per year.
4. Encourage landowners that crop fields on ‘D’ slopes (12-20%) or steeper to use less intensive cropping practices.
5. Promote diverse crop rotations.
6. Focus education efforts and soil erosion programs and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters.

**Objective D**

Provide examples of good conservation ethics to landowners.

**Actions:**

1. Provide 2 annual local news releases highlighting conservation.

**Goal 2** | Reduce erosion on land other than cropland.**Objective A**

Administer the county’s NR135 Non-metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance.

**Actions:**

1. Permit 1 new non-metallic mining operation per year
2. Annually inspect all permitted non-metallic mines and ensure compliance with NR135 and certify properly reclaimed acres.
3. Collect annual data and fees from NMM operators and submit the county’s annual report/ fees to WIDNR.

**Objective B**

Work with area contractors on utilizing best management practices.

**Actions:**

1. Participate in Best Management Practices workshops as needed during this 10-year plan
2. Provide technical assistance to 5 landowners per year on proper construction, repair, and maintenance of driveways, logging roads, and access roads.
3. Advise BMPs for earth work activities (logging, brush mowing, logging road construction) to protect water quality.

**Objective C**

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

**Actions:**

1. Develop 1 model logging contract or encourage landowners to work with forestry consultants on developing an adequate logging contract for their property.
2. Promote the WI DNR's 10-Step Landowner Pamphlet for conservation-minded land ownership.
3. Promote intensive rotational grazing practices and the Great River Graziers' pasture walks and provide grazing technical assistance to 5 operators per year.
4. Promote the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association as a resource for forest landowners.
5. Focus soil erosion programs and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters.

**Objective D**

Increase riparian areas protected.

**Actions:**

1. Work with FSA and NRCS to establish 2 new CREP agreements per year.
2. Provide landowners brochures on the importance of buffers through direct mailings or social media.

**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 10 landowners to sign up for USDA financial assistance programs.
2. Work with 2 landowners to sign up for the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program to secure funds for forest management plan development and site improvements.

**Objective B**

Provide more cost-share funding.

**Actions:**

1. Secure and contract annual DATCP SWRM funding for cos-share practices (8 contracts per year).
2. Apply for other state grant funding, such as Target Runoff Management or Notice of Discharge grant every three years.
3. Apply for other applicable funding for conservation work once during this 10-year plan.
4. Focus soil erosion programs and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters.

**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, restore, and enhance surface, groundwater and riparian areas.****Objective A**

Inform and educate landowners (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 or contaminating groundwater.

**Actions:**

1. Create a brochure explaining proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides.
2. Continue the Pesticide Applicator Training program (15 certifications per year).
3. Focus Nutrient Management Plan outreach in areas of the county with phosphorus or sediment impairments or known nitrate well contamination.
4. Partner with UW-Extension on a radio segment highlighting proper lawn and garden fertilizer/ pesticide use.
5. Partner with local wastewater treatment plants on landowner partnerships on phosphorous reduction efforts.
6. Apply for 1 education grants.
7. Provide annual information via radio, newspaper, and social media posts on preventing urban runoff.
8. Work with partners to promote the “Dump No Waste. Drains to River” storm drain stenciling effort.
9. Coordinate annual Youth Conservation Day for approximately 250 area students.
10. Provide annual hands-on experience for students relating to stream rehabilitation and encourage them to speak with their parents about stream health.

**Objective B**

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

**Actions:**

1. Work with and educate 1 owner/ operator of a mismanaged manure storage system per year.
2. Provide technical assistance to 3 owners of manure storage structures per year.
3. Permit new storage facilities and storage closures per our ordinance.
4. Promote development of Nutrient Management Plans

**Objective C**

Reduce groundwater pollution from direct conduits to groundwater.

**Actions:**

1. Distribute educational materials on sinkholes, well abandonment, septic systems installations and maintenance, and underground tanks once per year.
2. Provide technical assistance on 5 well abandonment and sinkhole protections per year and share geologic testing data regarding sinkhole locations
3. Encourage 2 landowners to sign up for EQIP for well abandonment and sinkhole protection per year.
4. Partner with the Crawford County Health Department to increase opportunities for private well testing/ distribute 10 annual well testing kits.
5. Continue with county-level or multi-county coordinated well testing efforts, such as the Driftless Area Water Study.
6. Pursue groundwater/ bedrock studies and mapping projects to help guide decisions.
7. Raise awareness on PFAS contamination risks
8. Use nitrate testing of public or private wells to focus promoting NMP adoption

**Objective D**

Reduce sediment delivery from erosion sources.

**Actions:**

1. Utilize available funding sources to cost share 2 Best Management Practices.
2. Encourage 5 landowners to sign up for cost-share funds and provide technical assistance for installation of BMPs.
3. Conduct 1 public streambank demonstration highlighting rip-rap, lunkers, and a stream crossing.
4. Conduct 1 public demonstration for cattle crossings and rotational grazing systems along a stream.
5. Support partners' surface water quality monitoring and annual Water Action Volunteer Trainings.

### **Objective E**

Protect existing wetlands and increase wetlands through restoration activities.

#### **Actions:**

1. Encourage 2 landowners per year to participate in the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).
2. Work with NRCS, US F&WS, and DNR to promote wetland restoration and ACEP (2 contracts).
3. Inform and educate the public on wetland restoration with outreach events and highlight quality wetlands, such as the Kickapoo Bottoms State Natural Area and Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance located within the Lower Wisconsin Riverway
4. Inform and educate the public about the function and need of wetlands with annual press releases or social media posts.

<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Implement NR151 Strategy outlined in Section 4 of this plan.</b>
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### **Objective A**

Conduct farm inspections to implement the NR 151 Agricultural performance standards and prohibitions.

#### **Actions:**

1. Conduct 25 Farmland Preservation Program farm inspections/ year and maintain all Farmland Preservation records of Certificates of Compliance.
2. Complete farm inspection reports to document which operations are or are not in compliance with NR 151 and consult with DNR staff as necessary.
3. Focus farm inspection efforts within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters or areas with known nitrate well contamination.

### **Objective B**

Work with WIDNR to coordinate farmer compliance with NR151 standards.

#### **Actions:**

1. Document the number of non-compliance determinations (estimated 1-2 farms/ year).

<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Increase funding for cost-sharing and demonstration projects.</b>
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### **Objective A**

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

#### **Actions:**

1. Assist 2 landowners per year with applying for federal cost-share programs.
2. Assist 1 landowner per year with applying for state cost-share dollars.
3. Apply for 2 state grants during this 10-year plan, when they are available, such as Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education grants or Nitrogen Optimization Pilot grant program.
4. Work with local sports groups for to secure 1 grant during this 10-year plan.
5. Work with UW-Ext on 2 on-farm research/ demonstration projects.
6. Participate in an annual meeting with partner agencies for updates and planning.
7. Obtain grants/funds for 1 demonstration project during this 10-year plan.

### **Objective B**

Communicate and coordinate with adjacent counties on projects.

#### **Actions:**

1. Partner with adjacent counties on 2 conservation projects during this 10-year plan.

### **Category 3 - Land Use Planning and Zoning**

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. Crawford County and the majority of towns, villages, and city have adopted comprehensive plans. Now the municipalities are at the stage of reviewing and updating 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 Work with the towns on the implementation of their comprehensive plans.**

##### **Objective A**

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

##### **Actions:**

1. Provide information and education to the local municipalities upon request regarding plan implementation methods through biennial meetings.
2. Connect local municipalities with our online GIS data and maps to help with planning needs and opportunities to expand mapping layers.
3. Encourage comprehensive planning coordination between the county and local municipalities.

#### **Goal 2 Promote and support local land use planning to protect the natural resources of the county.**

##### **Objective A**

Support towns, villages, cities, state, federal and local/regional agencies with the implementation of land use planning which protects the natural resources of the county.

##### **Actions:**

1. Provide information and education to the local municipalities upon request regarding land use planning implementation methods.
2. Inform and educate the public on the importance of land use planning in order to protect the county's natural resources by visiting 2 town board meetings per year.
3. Inform and educate the public about the economic value of the county's natural resources by visiting 2 town board meetings per year.
4. Assist 1 local unit of government with developing land use regulations which protect the natural resources of the county.

#### **Goal 3 Improve and protect the quality of natural resources by the judicious and economic use of nutrients.**

##### **Objective A**

Inform and educate Crawford County landowners on the wise use of nutrients and promote adoption of NMPs.

##### **Actions:**

1. Use radio advertisements, bulletins, social media, demonstrations, and biennial workshops to inform landowners.
2. Work with Southwest Technical College to facilitate training designed to certify landowners to write their own nutrient management plan (5 new plans per year) or provide landowners with access to DATCP's online certification program.
3. Secure grant and cost-share opportunities for 3 new nutrient management plans per year.
4. Work with landowners to complete 5 new nutrient management plans per year.
5. Collect annual NMP Checklists from all FPP zoning participants (90), Animal Waste Storage Permit holders (8), and all Livestock Facility Siting Permit holders (3).

6. Assess how many NMPs were adopted within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters or areas with known nitrate well contamination.

**Goal 4 | Utilize Floodplain Zoning and Shoreland/ Wetland Zoning to protect our natural resources.**

**Objective A**

Enforce Floodplain and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances.

**Actions:**

1. Use radio advertisements, bulletins, and social media to inform landowners of ordinance rules and regulations.
2. Review permit applications for compliance and issue appropriate permits.
3. Coordinate with DNR and FEMA to ensure the county is properly enforcing statutes and to update ordinances as necessary.

**Category 4 - Land Management**

Land Management is one of the key components to maintaining 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.



Woodland in Crawford County

**Goal 1 | Encourage sustainable forestry practices that improve our unique ecosystems.**

**Objective A**

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

**Actions:**

1. Make information available through social media and press releases regarding best management practices to forest landowners and logging companies.
2. Connect 15 landowners with the local DNR Forester.
3. Inform landowners of the DNR's Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program and NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program options.
4. Highlight the threats posed by invasive species via social media posts and press releases.

**Objective B**

Provide opportunities for residents to practice forest regeneration.

**Actions:**

1. Conduct annual Tree and Shrub Sale and sell ~4,000 trees/ shrubs per year.
2. Provide outreach information to residents on the WDNR State Nursery Program and the opportunity to purchase seedlings.
3. Promote the WFLGP and EQIP programs as opportunities to obtain funding to assist with tree plantings.

**Goal 2 | Protect and enhance important wildlife habitat areas.****Objective A**

Inform and educate Crawford County landowners on the importance of wildlife habitat areas.

**Actions:**

1. Inform and educate the public about the economic value of the county's wildlife through the LCD fair display.
2. Use annual press releases and social media posts to inform the public on wildlife issues.
3. Serve as the agricultural liaison to the Crawford County Deer Advisory Council.
4. Promote annual birding field trips to sites in the county.
5. Coordinate with conservation partners on area field days highlighting properties that have had prairie or oak savanna restoration work.
6. Collaborate on recognition of quality wetland sites/ projects.
7. Maintain prairie on County lands and use as a demonstration area for an annual outreach event.

**Objective B**

Protect existing wildlife areas and increase the amount of important wildlife habitat.

**Actions:**

1. Provide technical assistance to 7 landowners per year seeking advice on land management, including activities such as prescribed burning and invasive species control.
2. Administer and distribute WIDNR's annual county allotment for the County Conservation Aids funds.
3. Work with federal and state agencies to secure funds for preserving important wildlife habitat areas by writing 5 letters of support during this 10-year plan.
4. Work with sports groups such as Trout Unlimited and Wisconsin Waterfowl Association to secure funds for wildlife habitat preservation areas on 2 projects during this 10-year plan.
5. Apply for 1 state grant, if available, to secure funds for habitat protection.

**Objective C**

Protect important wildlife habitat areas from invasive species and pests.

**Actions:**

1. Inform and educate landowners about the threats posed by invasive species and pests through an annual press release and social media posts.
2. Provide information to landowners on identifying invasive plant, animal, and insect species.
3. Promote (and maintain) the LCD sprayer as a tool to control invasive species (rent to 2 landowners/ year).
4. Obtain DNR LMPN Surface Water Grant funds to annually hire an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator intern to provide Clean Boats, Clean Waters outreach to protect area waters.

**Goal 3 | Limit wildlife damage to crops.****Objective A**

Administer the WIDNR's Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program for the county.

**Actions:**

1. Assist 5 landowners per year with damage claims and ensure they are in compliance with the program.

## Category 5 - Waste Disposal

Proper solid waste disposal and recycling have been an issue for 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.

many



E-waste recycling

### Goal 1 | Provide hazardous waste recycling/disposal opportunities.

#### Objective A

Collect/reuse recyclables.

##### **Actions:**

1. Coordinate an annual tire collection event.
2. Coordinate an annual electronics recycling event.
3. Encourage recycling of ag plastics (silo & bale bags) through an annual press release and social media posts.
4. Encourage paint and used battery recycling through an annual press release and social media posts.

#### Objective B

Collect and remove hazardous waste.

##### **Actions:**

1. Encourage collection of mercury and fluorescent bulbs through an annual press release and social media posts.
2. Coordinate an annual Household Hazardous Waste/ Ag Clean Sweep/ Prescription Drug Collection event.

## Section 4: Implementation Tools and Strategies

There are numerous programs, tools and strategies available to assist in the implementation of the Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. During the planning process the Land Conservation Committee evaluated and identified several programs, tools and strategies that can be utilized in cooperation with agency partners to address the land and water resource concerns and help meet the goals and objectives described in this ten-year plan. The following programs, tools and strategies have been grouped and described in like categories.

### Information and Education Strategy

Knowledge is power. Cost-sharing, technical assistance and resource monitoring are ineffective unless they are shared in a meaningful way. Landowners and residents that make conservation decisions need to hear the story and the facts about the importance of sustaining and enhancing our precious soil and water resources. It is our belief that if people are provided with information and the facts, they will make good conservation decisions. The key is communication and getting the information to residents and landowners. The following information and education tools and strategies will be used to get information to the public.

#### ***School Outreach***

Involving and educating the next generation of landowners on land and water conservation issues is critical to meeting future conservation goals. To achieve this, the LCD and committee will continue outreach efforts in the local K-12 educational facilities through activities such as:

- ❖ Provide staff for outdoor education activities for county/state school districts, i.e. Wauzeka Badger Camp, Upper Mississippi River Adventure Day, Youth Conservation Days, Prairie du Chien Schools' Outdoor Ed day, Crawford County Dairy Breakfast, Wisconsin Land and Water's Summer Conservation Camp, Boscobel School Forest.
- ❖ Annual youth speech and poster contest for all interested school districts in the county.
- ❖ Use Enviro-scape at spring high school tour and loan Enviro-scape to teachers.
- ❖ Construct stream table and use it at Youth Conservation Day.
- ❖ Utilize Prairie du Chien High School for seedling tree and shrub sale.



Youth Conservation Day

#### ***Landowner Recognition/Appreciation***

Landowners are vital to conservation efforts in Crawford County. Recognizing landowners for their efforts and showing appreciation is an excellent way to spread a positive message about conservation. To achieve this, the County will continue to conduct a yearly Conservation Awards event.

#### ***Community Event Outreach***

The Land Conservation Department staff and committee will also be active in the community taking the opportunity at community events, county fair, etc. to spread the word and informational brochures and displays detailing the benefits of sound conservation practices.

#### ***Landowner Services***

Providing landowner services will continue to be a priority to implement land and water conservation practices. Services available to landowners to address the LWRM plan goals include:

- ❖ Include time to discuss issues with landowners and farmers when on farm visits or when landowners or farmers visit the office.
- ❖ Provide publications to new landowners such as: "Wisconsin's Runoff Rules: What Farmers Need to Know" and "Country Acres: A Guide to Buying and Managing Rural Lands".
- ❖ Revise and write conservation plans as an ongoing activity and as a contact follow-up.
- ❖ Provide private water testing kits and instructions on how to collect and where to send samples.
- ❖ Continue with annual tire collection event and Household Hazardous Waste/ Electronics/ and Prescription Drug Collection Clean Sweep.

### **Training Activities**

Training landowners and residents on methods to protect land and water resources is valuable in that they acquire the conservation skills. If landowners acquire the skills and do not have to pay for someone else to implement conservation practices it is more likely that the resources will be protected. Training opportunities provided include but are not limited to involving citizens in monitoring county streams by teaching proper techniques for sampling for critical indicators of water quality, i.e. nitrates, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, macro-invertebrates, etc. Continue working with Southwest Technical College on training Crawford County farmers to prepare their own nutrient management plans

### **Media and Legislative Outreach**

Communicating conservation issues to the media and legislators is important as a way to generate public awareness and legislative support for programs and services. The Crawford County LCD will continue to publish periodic press releases and natural resources awareness highlights to local newspapers as well as the local radio station. The Land Conservation Committee will also continue to invite legislators to conservation public events and applicable meetings.

### **Social Media**

Crawford County LCD will maintain a very active Facebook page. This page will be used to promote upcoming county events or programs, highlight area conservation projects, and share all sorts of natural resources-related posts. This is a quick and economical way to reach a lot of individuals. LCD staff will create or share dozens of posts each week.

### **Informational Brochures - Mailings**

Crawford County is aware that getting the word out about land and water conservation issues is vital to preserving and enhancing the county's natural resources. The Land Conservation Department will distribute the brochure "What Farmers Need to Know" (WT 756-2003) at the County Fair, with tax bills, at annual Dairy Breakfast, and during farm visits. In addition, the LCD will provide publications to new landowners such as: "Wisconsin's Runoff Rules: What Farmers Need to Know", "Owning Rural Lands" a Guide for the Kickapoo Watershed, And "Farmland Conservation Choices".

## **Regulatory Requirements, Performance Standards, and Priority Farms Strategy**

There are several regulatory requirements and performance standards that help ensure implementation of portions of the Crawford Land and Water Resources Management Plan. Crawford County prefers landowners to voluntarily comply with local or state regulations rather than face enforcement measures. When enforcing regulatory requirements, as a policy, the county provides landowners great leeway to seek voluntary compliance. In most cases, landowners recognize the value of improving the land and water quality and implement measures to be in compliance with regulations. The regulatory/performance standards in effect in Crawford County are described below:

### **Land and Water Management Plan**

Crawford County will comply with Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection's Administrative rule ATCP 50.12 Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.gov](http://www.crawfordcountywi.gov).

### **Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance**

Crawford County adopted a nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance in response to Wis. Administrative Code NR 135 and it is administered by the Land Conservation Department. This ordinance requires operators of non-metallic mining sites to plan for a specific post-mining reclamation at their sites.

With approximately 30 nonmetallic mines in the county, the Land Conservation Department is occupied inspecting, measuring the acreage covered by mining activity, receiving and reviewing reclamation plans, investigation complaints and other overall technical aspects of the program. Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.gov](http://www.crawfordcountywi.gov).

### **Manure Storage Ordinance**

In 2014, Crawford County revised its Manure Storage Ordinance to cover all manure storage facilities designed to hold manure for more than 30 days, or to hold more than 7,000 cu.ft. of manure, whichever was reached first. This includes stacks and abandoned sites. The purpose of the Manure Storage Ordinance for Crawford County is to regulate the location, design, construction, installation, and use of all animal manure storage facilities. New or substantially altered manure storage facilities shall be designed, constructed and maintained to protect water quality. All permitted operations must have an approved Nutrient Management Plan which properly allocates all of the manure produced from the facility. Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.gov](http://www.crawfordcountywi.gov).



**Manure Pit Construction**

### **Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance**

In 2006, Crawford County adopted a Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to seek a balance between the trend of expanding livestock operations and the increase in residences in the rural landscape. This ordinance applies to all new or expanding livestock operations with an animal population of more than 500 animal units (1,000 pounds of animal weight = 1 animal unit). The livestock facility siting ordinance establishes setbacks from roadways and property lines. All permitted operations must have an approved Nutrient Management Plan which properly allocates all of the manure produced from the facility. Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.gov](http://www.crawfordcountywi.gov).

### **Shoreland Zoning Ordinance**

Shoreland Zoning in Wisconsin gives counties the responsibility to further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions; prevent and control water pollution; protect spawning grounds, fish, and aquatic life; control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; and to preserve shore cover and natural beauty. Shoreland Zoning applies to all development occurring within 300' of any navigable water. There is a 75' building setback and the requirement to maintain a 35' vegetative buffer to create wildlife habitat and protect the waterbody from runoff and contaminants. Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.gov](http://www.crawfordcountywi.gov).

### **Performance Standards: NR 151 Performance Standards Implementation Strategy**

On October 1, 2002, Wisconsin's rules to manage polluted runoff for farms and other sources went into effect. The DNR Administrative Rule NR151 set performance standards and prohibitions for agriculture, construction site erosion, and runoff from streets and roads. DATCP Administrative Rule ATCAP 50 identifies conservation practices that must be followed to meet the performance standards. A summary of performance standards and conservation practices is included in Appendix C. The NR151 standards are reviewed and updated periodically by the state. Additional performance standards were added in 2011 and 2018. Current NR151 standards can be found at [http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/151](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/151). The following sections represent the Crawford County Land Conservation Department's strategy for the implementation of the NR 151 performance standards.

### **Identification of Priority Farms**

Priority farms are:

- Farms participating in the Farmland Preservation Program (\*\*Must be inspected once every four years\*\*)
- Farms where a formal complaint has been filed against that farm

- Farms within watersheds most impaired by soil loss and water quality. The rank in descending order based upon recent Transect data is Tainter Creek- Kickapoo River, City of Boscobel- Wisconsin River, and Kickapoo River Watershed
- Farms in watershed draining to DNR listed as "Impaired Waters (Section 303D)"
- Farms in Water Quality Management Areas
- Farms in areas with documented nitrate contamination of public or private wells

### Action items for Priority Farms

- Priority farms will be grouped by county watersheds and the watersheds will be ranked by soil loss according to the most recent data available from the transect survey and water quality data from DNR and citizen monitoring. (see Action Plan – Soil Erosion Section)
- Informational meetings will target the watersheds most impaired and be followed by volunteer on-farm evaluations using the Compliance Checklist (see Appendix C)
- The implementation of the priority farm strategy is based on staff and funding availability
- Inspection reports will be used to document if a farm operation was or was not in compliance with the NR 151 ag performance standards and prohibitions. This effort may also require consulting with DNR staff to assess compliance

### Information and Educational Activities

The Crawford County LCD will employ varied ways to contact landowners and inform them of Wisconsin's agricultural performance standards and prohibitions such as a combination of newsletters, public informational meetings, news and social media, and one-on-one contacts.

### Determining Current Compliance

#### Records Inventory

The records inventory will be a review of existing records of landowners throughout the county who may already be in compliance based upon past and present program participation. The FPP standards have been updated.

- Farmland Preservation Program – annual review
- Reviews of existing plan folders
- Contracts developed through County Cost Share programs

#### Onsite Evaluations

Crawford County Land Conservation Department will conduct on-site evaluations using the Compliance Checklist (see appendix C) based on the following criteria.

1. Review at the request of the landowner.
2. Farm inspections will be completed on Farmland Preservation Program participants' properties every four years. (Appendix C)
3. Landowners who are found out of compliance (using the Compliance Checklist) during normal records inventory process.
4. Formal complaints received by the Land Conservation Department
5. Farmsteads located within a Water Quality Management Area that drains into an Impaired Stream or one of Crawford Counties Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters. Farmsteads in a Water Quality Management Area will be determined through the use of existing geographic information systems. Farmsteads that apply for the Farmland Preservation Program.
6. Farmsteads located in the most impaired watersheds as determined by recent water quality monitoring/assessments
7. Farmsteads that adopt/ maintain a Nutrient Management Plan

The Compliance Checklist will be recorded and kept in the Land Conservation Department/USDA landowner file. Compliance will also be tracked in a countywide GIS database maintained by Crawford County and the Land Conservation Department. Currently the GIS database includes Farmland Preservation Program compliance but will be expanded to include permitted livestock facilities and other farms that receive compliance determinations.

### Prepare Report and Notify Landowners of Compliance Status

Following completion of a records review and/or an on-site evaluation the Crawford County LCD will prepare and issue a NR 151 Status Report to owners of the evaluated parcels.

The report will include the following:

- The current status of compliance of individual parcels with each of the performance standards and prohibitions
- Corrective measures needed to be brought into compliance and rough cost estimates to comply with each of the performance standards and prohibitions
- Status of eligibility for public cost sharing
- Grant funding sources and technical assistance available from Federal, state, and local sources, and third party service providers
- Explanations of conditions that apply if public cost share funds are used
- A signature line indicating landowner's agreement or disagreement with the report finding
- The process and procedures to contest evaluation results to county and/or state
- A copy of the performance standards and prohibitions and technical design standards

### **Administer Funding and Technical Assistance**

The LCD uses various sources for funding conservation practices including federal, state, and private dollars. Annual allocations from DATCP are used alone or piggy backed with federal and private funds. The Land Conservation Committee encourages the following practices:

#### Erosion Control Practices:

Critical Area Shaping, Grassed Waterways, Diversion, Grade Stabilization Structures, Prescribed Grazing, Streambank & Shoreline Protection, Access Roads & Stream Crossings.

#### Waste Management Practices:

Diversions, Nutrient Management Plans, Roof Runoff Systems, Barnyard Runoff Control, Sediment Basin Filter Strips, Heavy Use Area Protection, Manure Storage Systems/ Closures.

#### Environmental and Water Quality Practices:

Contour Farming, Crop Rotation, Filter Strips, Sinkhole Treatment, Tree and Shrub Establishment, Forest Site Preparation, Cover Crops, Fencing, WASCoB, Conservation Cover.

#### Demonstration Practices:

Prescribed Grazing and Associated Infrastructure Practices, Invasive Species Control

County Cost Share participants will be required to sign a cooperative agreement with the Land Conservation Department that will allow a review of their farm for compliance. We will check the whole farm to document areas meeting and not meeting compliance on required standards.

If cost sharing is involved an agreement will be developed that includes a schedule for installing or implementing Best Management Practices (BMP's). Technical assistance will be provided in the following forms.

- Conservation planning assistance
- Review of conservation plans prepared other than by LCD staff
- Engineering design assistance
- Review of designs prepared by other than LCD staff
- Construction oversight
- Certification of construction practices
- Cost containment

After installation of a practice, the LCD staff will evaluate and consult with DNR staff to decide if the parcel is in compliance with applicable performance or prohibitions.

## Strategy to Encourage Voluntary Compliance

- Provide landowners with information concerning:
  - The performance standards and prohibitions, their design and requirements
  - How the standards and prohibitions apply to their land and their status concerning compliance
  - The options they have to achieve and/or maintaining compliance
  - The implication of their decision and action regarding compliance
  - Available sources of cost sharing and technical assistance and how to access them
- Provide information about practices that would bring landowners into compliance with standards or prohibitions
- Provide help to apply for cost sharing and other technical assistance
- Provide technical assistance to prepare and review conservation plans and designs
- Administer cost sharing
- Provide follow-up and support to maintain compliance

### Notice

All landowners will receive written copies of their NR151 compliance status or other ordinance status evaluation and the actions of the Land Conservation Department.

### Appeal /Hearing

Any landowner wishing to appeal their evaluation of NR 151 compliance may request a hearing before the Crawford County Land Conservation Committee.

## Enforcement

- If a landowner refuses technical and financial assistance from the Crawford County Land Conservation Department, in an NR 151 compliance requirement, they will be notified by mail that they may be subject to an enforcement action pursuant to NR 151.09. Crawford County will work with the local DNR Non-point Source Coordinator throughout this process to assist in NR 151 compliance through cost share and/or enforcement procedures.
- A Copy of the Compliance Checklist (see Appendix C), all correspondence with the client, all determinations made by the Land Conservation Department and actions of the Crawford County Land Conservation Committee regarding the client, and a recommendation by the department and committee on how to proceed with enforcement will be sent to the area DNR Nonpoint Source Coordinator.
- County ordinances will be enforced as listed in the Penalty section 25.04 of the Crawford County Code.

## Partnership and Coordination

Establishing and maintaining partnerships is very important to the conservation of land and water resources. Turf battles, agency posturing, kingdom building, and political grandstanding destroy people and natural resources. It is the goal of the Crawford County Land Conservation Department to discuss program issues and ideas with staff from all groups and agencies to establish mutual agreement on resource protection. The following agencies and groups are well suited to preserve, protect and enhance Crawford County's precious soil and water resources. The Crawford County Land Conservation Department will continue to work with the following agencies and groups:

### **USDA Programs**

1. *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*. Provides cost-sharing for conservation practices.
2. *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*. Provides annual payments for various types of conservation practices.
3. *Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)*. A partner-driven approach to funding conservation work.
4. *Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)*. A set-aside land program.
5. *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)*. A buffer creation program implemented by DATCP, NRCS, FSA, and Crawford County.
6. *Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)*. A wetland restoration program.

### **DNR Programs**

1. *Targeted Runoff Management Program (TRM)*. A program that offers competitive grants for local governments for the control of pollution that comes from nonpoint sources in targeted, critical geographic areas with surface water or groundwater quality concerns.
2. *Notice of Discharge (NOD)*. This program works to address water quality impacts from nonpoint sources of pollution, via voluntary and regulatory approaches with financial and technical assistance..
3. *Multi-Discharge Variance (MDV)*. An option for point-sources to work with non-point sources to reduce phosphorous discharge into a specific watershed.
4. *Surface Water Grants Program*. This program provides cost-sharing grants for surface water protection and restoration. Funding is available for education, ecological assessments, planning, implementation, and aquatic invasive species prevention and control.
5. *Monitoring Program*. The DNR monitors aquatic resources to assess ecosystem health, evaluate environmental problems, determine the success of management actions and to meet the state's Clean Water Act (CWA) monitoring responsibilities.
6. *Managed Forest Law (MFL)*. A forest management program.
7. *Trout Stamp Program*. Trout habitat work.
8. *Conservation Aids*. A program to match county dollars for fish and wildlife habitat improvement.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service Programs**

1. *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*. Used to acquire/ restore unique prairie and wetland habitat.

### **DATCP Programs**

1. *Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM)*. Provides funding to counties for conservation staff, the design and installation of conservation practices, and the creating of Nutrient Management Plans for cropland and managed pastures.
2. *Farmland Preservation Program*: Administered by the Land Conservation Department, this program provides tax relief to participants who protect farmland and follow a conservation plan. As of 2016, the Towns of Haney and Utica, as well as the Village of Soldiers Grove, are the only municipalities with Farmland Preservation Zoning. The majority of FPP participants are located within these areas.

### **Crawford County Ordinances and Programs**

1. *Crawford County Manure Storage Ordinance*: A regulatory county measure to require the environmentally sound construction and operation of all manure storage structures.
2. *Crawford County Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance*: A regulatory county measure to properly locate new and expanding livestock operations with more than 500 animal units (1 animal unit= 1,000 pounds).
3. *Crawford County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance*: A regulatory county measure to ensure the proper reclamation of nonmetallic mines.
4. *Crawford County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance*: Administered by the Zoning office to regulate a variety of flood fringe, flood plain issues.

### **Other Active Partners in Conservation**

1. UW- Extension
2. Prairie Rod & Gun Club, Gays Mills Big Buck Club
3. Valley Stewardship Network
4. Crawford Stewardship Project
5. Southwest Technical College
6. Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission
7. Lower Wisconsin State Riverway
8. Crawford County municipalities- 11 townships, 10 villages, one city
9. Great River Graziers
10. Trout Unlimited
11. Wild Turkey Federation
12. Pheasants Forever

13. Wisconsin Land and Water
14. Crawford County Farm Bureau
15. School Districts of North Crawford, DeSoto, Seneca, Prairie du Chien, and Wauzeka- Steuben
16. Producer-Led Watershed Groups in the county (currently Rush Creek Watershed Group and the Tainter Creek Watershed Group)

## Section 5: Funding for Plan Implementation

### Plan Funding

The Crawford County Land and Water Resources Plan is a document that can be used by all of the partners that work to protect soil and water resources in Crawford County. The agencies and personnel that will be involved in the implementation of the plan are the Crawford County Land Conservation Department, UW-Extension NPM Staff Ag/Resource Agent, USDA- FSA & NRCS Offices, and Southwest Badger RC&D. A combination of private, local, state, and federal sources will be sought to implement the priorities of the plan. As funding opportunities arise, the plan goals and objectives will be referenced to develop project applications. A partial list of potential funding sources is included. The lead agency to pursue funding will depend upon the individual objectives being pursued.

***Potential funding sources – including, but not limited to:***

**Private Sources**

Private Foundations  
Volunteer Hours  
Ducks Unlimited  
Trout Unlimited  
Individual Contributions  
Conservation Organizations

**Local Government Sources**

Crawford County Department Budgets  
(Land Conservation, Zoning, Emergency Government Offices)  
\*Crawford County Cost-Share Program (Under Development-described below)

**State Government Sources**

Department of Natural Resources  
DNR Wildlife Sources  
New Nonpoint Source Funds  
Stewardship Grants  
Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp  
Turkey Stamp Funds  
WPFLGP (Wisconsin Private Forest Landowners Grant Program)  
Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Land and Water Plan Implementation Funds (Bond/ Structural funding)  
Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Nutrient Management Plan Funds (SEG funding)

**Federal Sources**

Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Competitive and Continuous
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Environmental Protection Agency

- Environmental Education Grants
- 319 (Clean Water Act) Grants

***\*County Cost-Share Program***

The Crawford County Land Conservation Committee will work to develop a county-funded cost share program that will supplement other funding sources. One advantage of local a program is that it can be structured with greater flexibility than federal or state programs to encourage landowner participation.

Local residents, staff, and elected officials will use their influence to structure the development of state and federal grant programs whenever possible and will assist the Land Conservation Committee in developing the cost-share program. This may or may not be a feasible option, depending upon available funding in the county-wide budget.

## Section 6: Evaluation and Monitoring

Measuring and evaluating activities identified in the plan is critical in order for the plan to be successful and ensure that the land and water resources of the County are restored or protected. Annually, the Land Conservation Department and Committee will review the action plan to determine what has been accomplished and what additional tasks need to be completed. The Land Conservation Department and Committee will also use the following tools to evaluate and monitor plan success.

### Soil Erosion & Nutrient Management Tracking

The Crawford County Land Conservation Department will continue to pursue viable modeling and tracking software in order to better predict soil erosion in the county. Nutrient Management Plan data may be used to track phosphorous discharge and soil erosion rates across the county, or in certain specific watersheds. Crawford County hopes to continue increasing the amount of land covered by a Nutrient Management Plan each year, which will lead to more representative estimates of the true on-farm soil loss and phosphorous movement. The Crawford County Land Conservation Department will investigate the possible use of the DNR's EVAAL tool, or any other modeling software available. Line transect surveys may also still be used to determine estimated soil loss in certain areas or watersheds. This data can be compared year-to-year to show trends on the landscape. As the last transect survey in Crawford County occurred in 2009, the county will prioritize conducting another round of surveys very soon and look to follow up with additional surveys at a return interval that is deemed appropriate.

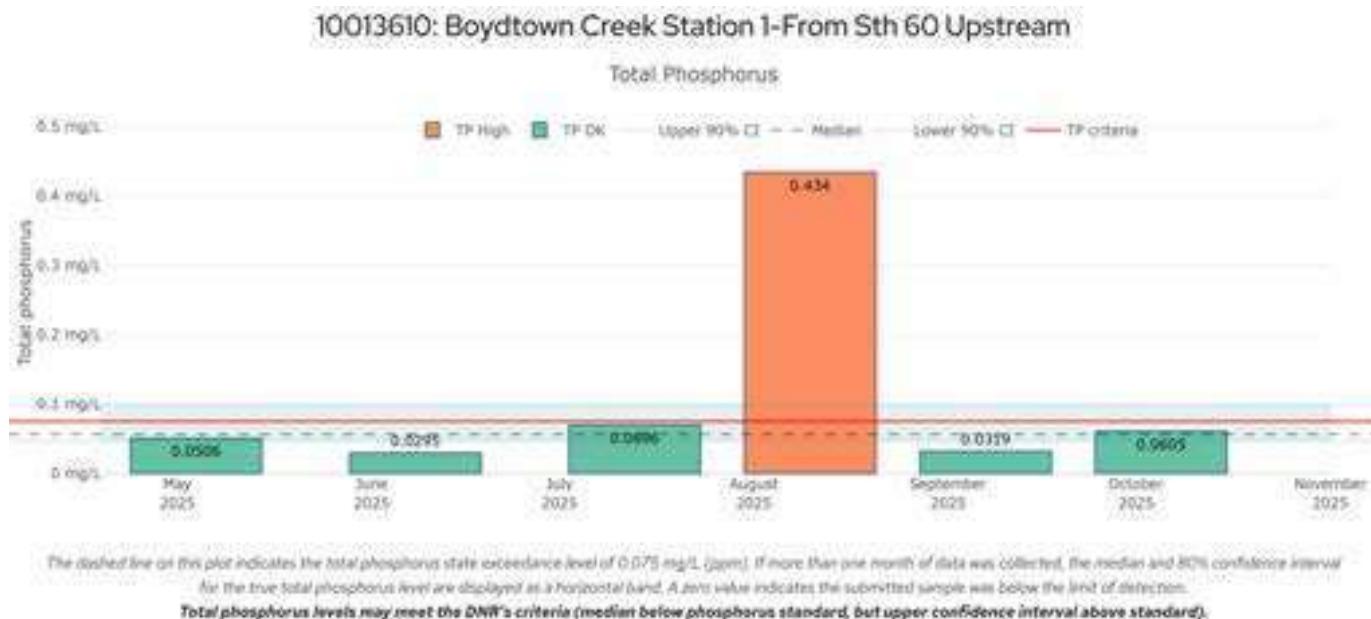
### Water Quality Monitoring

Crawford County has encouraged water quality monitoring by the Valley Stewardship Network in the Kickapoo River Watershed and will continue to cooperate with similar efforts. Outside of the Kickapoo Watershed, Crawford Stewardship Project continues to monitor other sensitive waters in the county. A fledgling project of UW Extension Water Action Volunteers (WAV) began in the county in 2005 with participation from sports clubs and interest from area school classes. Training sessions have been held for volunteers. WAV data is tracked in the Citizen Monitoring Database maintained by UW Extension. Table 6-1 shows the 16 WAV monitoring stations and what they are sampled for and Figure 1 shows an example of data available for these sites. The largest benefit of citizen monitoring is the increased awareness of county residents in the importance of good land stewardship and its impact on water quality. The 2025 WAV coordinators for Crawford County include:

- Omaru Heras Ornelas (Crawford Stewardship Project)- [oheras@crawfordstewardship.org](mailto:oheras@crawfordstewardship.org), 608-632-7021
- Ben Johnston (Valley Stewardship Network)- [ben@valleystewardshipnetwork.org](mailto:ben@valleystewardshipnetwork.org), 608-637-3615

**Table 6-1 Crawford County WAV Monitoring Sites**

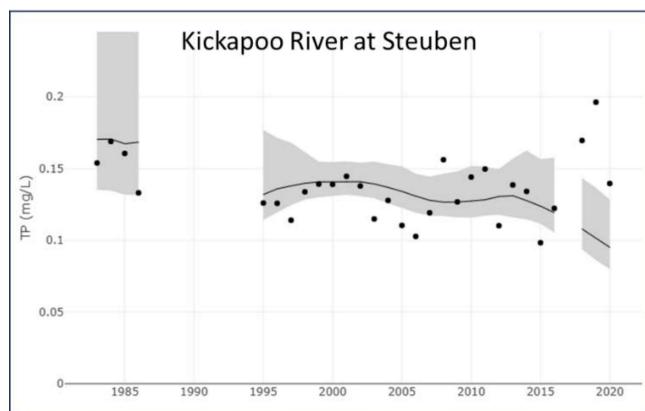
SWIMS Station	Station Name	Sampling Type (Sampling Period)
10033406	Tainter Creek 1.3 mi south on CTH B from intersection with CTH C	Baseline Data (2015-2024)
10013605	Bear Creek Station 1-STH 131 Crossing Upstream	Baseline Data (2021-2025) Thermistor Data (2024)
10012461	Halls Branch 100 Yds Upstream from Zintz Rd	Baseline Data (2015-2024)
10043915	West Fork Knapp Creek at Guthrie Dr	Baseline Data (2016-2024)
10044917	Richland Creek at Byers Road	Baseline Data (2016-2025) Thermistor Data (2023)
10044131	Richland Creek - Childs Hollow Rd Bridge	Nutrient Data (2023-2025)
10056913	Unnamed Trib (1183600) at Drake Rd	Baseline Data (2019-2025)
10044132	Kickapoo River- Taylor Ridge Rd Bridge	Thermistor Data (2022-2023)
10009025	Citron Creek #1-Bridge On CTH E	Nutrient Data (2024-2025)
10052670	Unnamed (5034616) At Kickapoo Valley Road	Baseline Data (2019-2025), Nutrient Data (2020, 2023)
10052671	Unnamed (5034666) At Kickapoo Valley Road	Baseline Data (2019-2024), Nutrient Data (2020)
10032123	Boydton Creek 400 ft west of Hilldale Rd	Baseline Data (2015-2025), Nutrient Data (2015)
10013610	Boydton Creek Station 1-From STH 60 Upstream	Nutrient Data (2024-2025)
10052569	Unnamed (5035112) At Spring	Baseline Data (2019-2025)
10032119	Wisconsin River Tributary 0.5 mi SE Of STH 60 and Knob Ln Intersection	Baseline Data (2015-2025), Nutrient Data (2015), Thermistor Data 2020, 2022-2024)
10029558	Little Kickapoo Creek at Hwy 60 St. 1 - 2008	Nutrient Data (2024-2025)



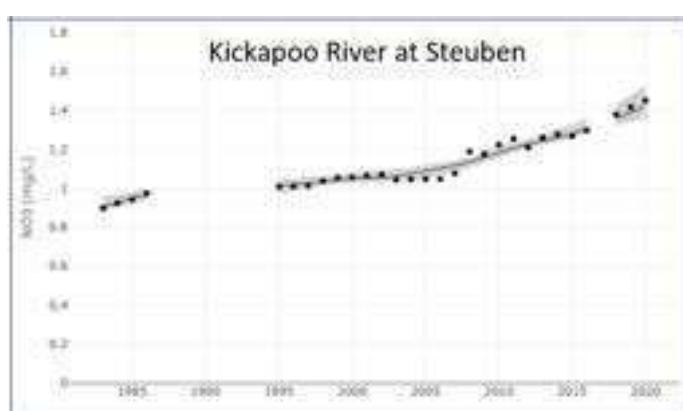
**Figure 1. WAV Total Phosphorus sampling results at Boydton Creek Station (SWIMS #10013610) in 2025**

The Land Conservation Department will consult with DNR Water Quality Biologists and collect county data from the Water Action Volunteer sites and use the water quality data to compare and contrast with the ranking of the transect survey results or NMP data from year to year to focus education and informational efforts. While water quality monitoring is important, the ability of citizen volunteers to record the effects of heavy rainfall is limited. More effort is needed to put dedicated continuous monitoring equipment in county streams to accurately reflect water chemistry. The Land Conservation Department will consult with DNR WQ biologist(s) annually to review available water quality data and also to discuss future WQ monitoring stations in the county within watersheds with impairments.

Another current water quality monitoring project of note in the county would be the WI DNR's Long Term Trend River Monitoring that includes the Kickapoo River that tracks and analyzes water quality trends over time in Wisconsin's large river systems. The Kickapoo River is sampled monthly for the following parameters: Total Phosphorus, Ortho Phosphate, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, Nitrate + Nitrite as N, Ammonia-N, Alkalinity, Turbidity, Total Suspended Solids, Chlorophyll-a, Chloride, Harness, Cadmium, Copper, Mercury, pH, E. Coli, Dissolved Oxygen, Oxygen- Percent Saturation, Temperature (sample), Specific Conductance, and Transparency Tube. The sampling site is located at Bridge Street in the Village of Steuben (SWIMS 123017). Sampling over the last several decades show that concentrations of total phosphorus, orthophosphate, and ammonia have clearly decreased in that time while concentrations of nitrate + nitrite and chloride have clearly increased in the Kickapoo River. The following graphs show some of these trends.



**Figure 2. Total Phosphorus concentration trend adjusted for discharge and seasonality 1983-2020.**



**Figure 3. Nitrate + nitrites concentration trend adjusted for discharge and seasonality 1983-2020.**

The Wisconsin DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management has also conducted some fisheries studies that correspond closely with water quality. There is an annual nonwadeable large river survey conducted at 3 sites along the Wisconsin River that routinely result in an Excellent Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) rating and periodic (2019, 2024) surveys at 2 sites along the Kickapoo River near Steuben and Wauzeka that have produces a Good IBI rating. There has also been annual sampling of 5 sites on Rush Creek and a fish response to habitat improvement evaluation on Tainter and Conway Creeks.

DNR Fisheries staff also completed a Trout Population Trends and Fisheries Management in Southern Crawford County report in March of 2023 that summarized trout populations and made recommendations on how to improve the fishery. According to the report, trout are now more abundant and widespread in southern Crawford County streams than they've been in at least a century and that current challenges include increased flooding and air temperatures due to climate change, changes in land use, and displacement of brook trout by brown trout.

#### **Geographic Information System (GIS)**

As Crawford County modernizes its land records, all compliance records will be recorded and tracked in a geo-database linked to tax parcel I.D. numbers. Farmland Preservation Program parcels, manure storage permits, nonmetallic mining permits, and CREP agreements and easements will also be linked to the tax parcels. Crawford County just recently established an FPP participant layer to help track compliance of that program and thus the Nutrient Management Plan-covered acres. The county has obtained LIDAR data for the entire county, which can be very useful when looking at watershed scale issues, calculating slopes, estimating erosion rates, and is a key requirement for using the DNR's EVAAL tool.

#### **Annual Accomplishment Reports**

Financial data, installed practices, pollutant load data, information and education activities, and NR151 compliance will all be reported to DATCP and other agencies as required. Progress on work plan goals will be annually reviewed by the Land Conservation Department.

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# **Appendices**

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## Appendix A

### Crawford County Land Conservation, Zoning, and Planning Committee

Gary Koch, Chair  
 Mary Kuhn  
 Owen DuCharme  
 Chad Sime  
 Kate Krachey

### Crawford County LWRM Plan Advisory Council

Name	Representing
Gary Koch	Land Conservation Committee, Chair
Mary Kuhn	Land Conservation Committee
Owen DuCharme	Land Conservation Committee
Chad Sime	Land Conservation Committee
Kate Krachey	Land Conservation Committee
David Troester	County Conservationist
Travis Bunting	Land Conservation Department - Conservation Specialist
Amy Oppriecht	Land Conservation Department - Clerk
Becky Nagel	Zoning
Sam Bibby	UW- Extension
Joshua Bushee	USDA- NRCS
Rebecca Vasquez	WI DNR- Forestry
Cindy Koperski	WI DNR- Nonpoint Runoff
Forest Jahnke	Crawford Stewardship Project

### Advisory Council Meetings

June 16, 2025 – Prairie du Chien (& virtual)  
 July 1, 2025 – Prairie du Chien (& virtual)  
 September 9, 2025- Prairie du Chien (& virtual)  
 November 11, 2025 - Prairie du Chien- Public Hearing on Draft LWRM Plan  
 December 9, 2025 - Prairie du Chien- LCC Approval of Draft LWRM Plan

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## Appendix B

The following table is the “Crawford County Land and Water Resources Action Plan” that is derived from the goals and objectives described in Section 3 of this plan. The action plan addresses five categories: Soil Erosion, Water Resources, Land Use Planning, Land Management, and Waste Disposal.

Each category details the following:

<b>Resource Concern</b>	These are broad categories addressing the major resources and concerns expressed by residents, elected officials and agencies during the planning process.
<b>Goals</b>	These represent areas of work to address the specific resource concern.
<b>Objectives</b>	These are work items to be conducted by county staff, partner agencies and /or volunteers.
<b>LCD Costs</b>	Estimated yearly staff costs, or sometimes singular activity cost, for the Land Conservation Department to accomplish the objective.
<b>Cost-Share Available</b>	Estimated annual local, state, or federal cost-shares available to accomplish certain goals/ objectives.
<b>Actions with annual benchmarks</b>	These are projected measurable outcomes of the efforts in the categories.

*An important element of the action plan is the implementation of the NR 151 performance standards. These standards are addressed throughout this plan but special note is to be taken here about how this is to happen in Crawford County. Outreach and education will be narrowed to specific situations as most farmers now know the requirements of ATCP 50 and NR 151.*

*The technical nature of our Land Conservation Department requires the county to draw information from specialists such as UW Extension, DNR, & DATCP for help in this area. Specific I & E tools for this plan are: DNR, NRCS brochures such as, Crawford County Land Conservation Department Web site, Wisconsin's Forestry Facts & Forestry BMP manual, FSA Newsletter, Newspaper Releases, Wisconsin Runoff Rules: What Farmers Need to Know, Phosphorus Movement from Land to Water, CREP fact sheets, UWEX web sites, Farmland Conservation Choices, When and Where to Apply Manure, Owning Rural Lands, Country Acres, What is a Farm Nutrient Management Plan?, and Local Contractor Workshops.*

## 2026-2035 Crawford County Land and Water Management Plan Action Plan

*(Priority Objectives are bolded, italicized and highlighted)*

Resource Concern #1 – Soil Erosion				
Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Maintain soil erosion on all cropland to 'T'	Track average soil loss on all cropland	\$12,000		Use NMP Snap+ software or transect survey data to track soil erosion estimates on 500 acres/ year
				Maintain a database of soil erosion estimates
				Compare aerial photos, LiDAR data, and Nutrient Management Plan data to assess soil erosion changes over time at 10 farms
	Inform and educate landowners on soil and water conservation practices	\$8,000		Provide specialized outreach information to absentee landowners annually
				Develop and provide a model rental contract with soil erosion prevention items in it
				Create an information packet on conservation programs, practices, and associated agencies and update it every year.
				Work one-on-one and provide outreach information to 20 landowners as they call or visit
				Develop outreach packet for realtors and title companies to give to new rural landowners.
	Reduce soil erosion to "T" tolerable soil loss on cropland (prioritizing soil conservation plans and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters)	\$9,500		Write 5 annual conservation plans and treat cropland to tolerable soil loss levels or less
				Provide technical assistance to landowners to install 500 acres of contour strips and contour buffer strips per year
				Promote no-till, zone-till, and reduced tillage systems, as well as cover crops with 15 landowners per year
				Encourage landowners that crop fields on 'D' slopes (12-20%) or steeper to use less intensive cropping practices
				Promote diverse crop rotations
				Focus education efforts and soil erosion programs and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters
	Provide examples of good conservation ethics to landowners	\$500		Provide 2 annual local news releases highlighting conservation
Reduce erosion on land other than cropland	Administer the county's NR135 Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance	\$7,500		Permit 1 new non-metallic mining operation/ year
				Annually inspect all permitted non-metallic mines and ensure compliance with NR135, and certify properly reclaimed acres
				Collect annual data and fees from NMM operators and submit annual report/fees to DNR

## Resource Concern #1 – Soil Erosion - continued

Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Reduce erosion on land other than cropland (cont.)	Work with area contractors on utilizing best management practices	\$2,000		Participate in Best Management Practices workshops as needed during this 10-year plan
				Provide technical assistance to 5 landowners per year on proper construction, repair, and maintenance of driveways, logging roads, and access roads
				Advise BMPs for earth work activities (logging, brush mowing, logging road construction) to protect water quality
	Inform landowners on methods to prevent erosion on land other than cropland	\$4,000		Develop 1 model logging contract or encourage timber landowners to work with forestry consultants on developing an adequate logging contract
				Promote the WI DNR's 10-Step Landowner Pamphlet for conservation-minded land ownership
				Promote intensive rotational grazing practices and the Great River Graziers' pasture walks and provide grazing technical assistance to 5 operators per year
				Promote the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association as a resource to forest landowners
				Focus soil erosion program and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters
	Increase riparian area protection	\$4,000		Work with FSA and NRCS to establish 2 new CREP agreements annually
				Provide landowners information on the importance of buffers through direct mailings or social media
Increase available cost-share dollars for erosion prevention practices	Assist landowners in signing up for cost-share	\$250,000		Work with 10 landowners annually to sign up for USDA financial assistance programs
				Work with 2 landowners to sign up for the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant program to secure funds for forest management plan development and site improvements
	Provide more cost-sharing	\$52,000		Secure and contract annual DATCP SWRM funding for cost-share practices (8 contracts per year)
			\$20,000	Apply for other state grant funding, such as Targeted Runoff Management or Notice of Discharge Grants, when available twice during this 10-year plan
				Focus soil erosion programs and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters
				Apply for other applicable funding for conservation work once during this 10-year plan
		\$117,500	\$322,000	

Resource Concern #2 - Water Resources				
Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Preserve, protect, restore, and enhance surface, groundwater, and riparian areas	<p><b>Inform and educate landowners on the proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides, and on method to prevent chemicals, sediment, and other contaminants from reaching rivers and streams or groundwater</b></p>	\$5,000		Create a brochure explaining proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides
				Continue the Pesticide Applicator Training program (15 certifications per year)
				Focus Nutrient Management Plan outreach in areas of the county with phosphorus or sediment impairments or known nitrate well contamination
				Partner with UW- Extension on a radio segment highlighting proper lawn and garden fertilizer/ pesticide use
				Partner with local wastewater treatment plants on landowner partnerships on phosphorous reduction efforts
				Apply for 1 education grant
				Provide annual information via radio, newspaper, and social media posts on preventing urban runoff
				Work with partners to promote the "Dump No Waste. Drains to River" storm drain stenciling effort
				Coordinate annual Youth Conservation Day for approximately 250 area students
				Provide annual hands-on experience for students relating to stream rehabilitation and encourage them to speak with their parents about stream health
Preserve, protect, and enhance surface, groundwater, and riparian areas	<p><b>Reduce the potential for groundwater pollution from improperly constructed and mismanaged manure storage structures</b></p>	\$7,500		Work with and educate 1 owner/ operator of a mismanaged manure storage system per year
				Provide technical assistance to 3 owners of manure storage per year
				Permit new storage facilities and storage closures per our ordinance
				Promote the development of Nutrient Management Plans
Preserve, protect, and enhance surface, groundwater, and riparian areas	<p><b>Reduce groundwater pollution from direct conduits</b></p>	\$6,500		Distribute educational materials on sinkholes, well abandonments, septic system installation and maintenance, and underground tanks once per year
				Provide technical assistance on 5 well abandonment and sinkhole protections per year and share geologic testing data regarding sinkhole locations
				Encourage 2 landowners to sign up for EQIP for well abandonment and sinkhole protections per year

Resource Concern #2 - Water Resources - continued				
Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Preserve, protect, and enhance surface, groundwater, and riparian areas- continued	<b>Reduce groundwater pollution from direct conduits (continued)</b>			Partner with the Crawford County Health Dept. to increase opportunities for private well testing/ distribute 10 annual well testing kits
				Continue with county-level or multi-county coordinated well testing efforts, such as the Driftless Area Water Study
				Pursue groundwater/ bedrock studies and mapping projects to help guide decisions
				Raise awareness on PFAS contamination risks
				Use nitrate testing of public or private wells to focus promoting NMP adoption
	Reduce sediment delivery from erosion sources (prioritizing soil conservation plans and practices within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters)	\$4,000		Use available funding sources to cost-share 2 BMPs
				Encourage 5 landowners to sign up for cost-share funds and provide technical assistance for installation of BMPs
				Conduct 1 public streambank demonstration highlighting rip-rap, lunkers, and a stream crossing
				Conduct 1 public demonstration for cattle crossing and rotational grazing systems along a stream
				Support partners' surface water quality monitoring and assist with an annual Water Action Volunteer Training.
	Protect existing wetlands and increase wetlands through restoration activities	\$1,500		Encourage 2 landowners/ year to participate in NRCS' Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
				Work with NRCS, USFWS, and DNR to promote wetland restoration and ACEP (2 contracts)
				Inform and educate the public on wetland restoration with annual outreach events and highlight quality wetlands, such as the Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance located within the Lower Wisconsin Riverway
				Inform and educate the public on the function and need of wetlands with annual press releases or social media posts
Implement NR151 strategy outlined in Section 4	<b>Farm inspections to implement state performance standards and prohibitions</b>	\$8,500		Conduct 25 Farmland Preservation Program farm inspections/ year, and maintain site inspection reports and all Farmland Preservation records of Certificates of Compliance
				Complete farm inspection reports to document which farm operations are or are not in compliance with NR 151 and consult with DNR staff as necessary
				Focus farm inspection efforts within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters or areas with known nitrate well contamination

**Resource Concern #2 - Water Resources - continued**

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>LCD Costs</b>	<b>Cost-share available</b>	<b>Actions with Annual Benchmarks</b>
Implement NR151 strategy outlined in Section 4- continued	Work with WIDNR to coordinate farmer compliance with NR151 standards	\$1,000		Document the number of non-compliance determinations per year (estimated 1-2 farms/ year)
Increase funding for cost-sharing and demonstration projects	Increase the amount of cost-share and grants available to landowners	\$3,500		Assist 2 landowners/ year applying for federal cost-share programs
				Assist 1 landowner/ year applying for state cost-share dollars such as TRM and/or NOD
				Apply for 2 state grants during this 10-year plan, when available, such as Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education grants or Nitrogen Optimization Pilot grants
				Work with local sports groups to secure 1 grant during this 10-year plan
				Work with UW-Extension on 2 on-farm research/ demonstrations
				Participate in an annual meeting with partner agencies for updates and planning
				Obtain grants/ funds for 1 demonstration project during this 10-year plan
	Communicate and coordinate with other counties on projects	\$1,000		Partner with adjacent counties on 2 conservation projects during this 10-year plan
		\$38,500	\$0	

**Resource Concern #3 - Land Use Planning**

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>LCD Costs</b>	<b>Cost-share available</b>	<b>Actions with Annual Benchmarks</b>
Work with the towns on the implementation of their comprehensive plans	<i>Support towns, villages, and cities with the implementation of their land use element goals identified in their comp plans</i>	\$2,000		Provide information and education to the local municipalities upon request regarding plan implementation methods through biennial meetings
				Connect local municipalities with our online GIS data and maps to help with planning needs and opportunities to expand mapping layers.
				Encourage comprehensive planning coordination between the county and local municipalities.

Resource Concern #3 - Land Use Planning - continued				
Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Promote and support local land use planning to protect the natural resources of the county	<b><i>Support towns, villages, cities, state, federal and local/regional agencies with the implementation of land use planning which protect the natural resources of the county</i></b>	\$2,000		Provide information and education to the local municipalities upon request regarding land use planning implementation methods
				Inform and educate the public on the importance of land use planning in order to protect the county's natural resources by visiting 2 town board meetings per year
				Inform and educate the public about the economic value of the county's natural resources by visiting 2 town board meetings per year
				Assist 1 local unit of government with developing land use regulations which protect the natural resources of the county
Improve and protect the quality of natural resources by the judicious and economic use of nutrients	<b><i>Inform and educate landowners on the wise use of nutrients and adoption of NMPs</i></b>	\$12,000		Use radio ads, bulletins, social media, demonstrations, and biennial workshops to inform landowners
				Work with Southwest Technical College to facilitate training designed to certify landowners to write their own Nutrient Management Plan (5 new plans/ year) or provide landowners with access to DATCP's online certification program
			\$8,000	Secure grant and cost share opportunities for 3 new Nutrient Management Plans per year
				Work with landowners to complete 5 new NMPs per year, prioritizing NMP adoption within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters
				Collect annual NMP checklists from all FPP participants (90), Animal Waste Storage Permit holders (8) and all Livestock Facility Siting Permit holders (3)
				Assess how many NMPs were adopted within watersheds with phosphorus or sediment impaired waters or areas with known nitrate well contamination
Utilize Floodplain Zoning and Shoreland/ Wetland Zoning to protect our natural resources	<b><i>Enforce Floodplain and Shoreland/ Wetland Zoning Ordinances</i></b>	\$25,000		Use radio advertisements, bulletins, and social media to inform landowners of ordinance rules and regulations
				Review permit applications for compliance and issue appropriate permits
				Coordinate with DNR and FEMA to ensure the county is properly enforcing statutes and to update ordinances as necessary
		\$41,000	\$8,000	

Resource Concern #4 - Land Management				
Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Encourage sustainable forestry practices that respect	Inform residents and loggers about the importance of	\$1,250		Make information available through social media and press releases regarding best management practices to forest landowners and logging companies
				Connect 15 landowners with the local DNR Forester

our unique ecosystems	sustainable forestry practices			Inform landowners of the DNR's Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP) and NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) options
				Highlight the threats posed by invasive species via social media posts and press releases
Provide opportunities for residents to practice forest regeneration	\$3,000			Conduct annual Tree and Shrub Sale- sell 2,000 trees/ shrubs
				Provide outreach information to residents on the WI DNR State Nursery Program and the opportunity to purchase seedlings
				Promote the WFLGP and EQIP programs as opportunities to obtain funding to assist with tree plantings
Protect and enhance important wildlife and associated habitat areas	Inform and educate Crawford County landowners on the importance of wildlife habitat areas	\$4,500		Inform and educate the public about the economic value of the county's wildlife through the LCD fair display
				Use annual press releases and social media posts to inform the public on wildlife issues
				Serve as the agricultural liaison to the Crawford County Deer Advisory Council
				Promote annual birding field trips to sites in the county
				Coordinate with conservation partners on area field days highlighting properties that have had prairie or oak savanna restoration work
				Collaborate on recognition of quality wetland sites/
	<b><i>Protect existing wildlife areas and increase the amount of important wildlife habitat</i></b>	\$4,500	\$3,000	Maintain prairie on County lands and use as a demonstration area for an annual outreach event
				Provide technical assistance to 7 landowners/ year seeking advice on land management, especially prescribed burning
				Administer and distribute WIDNR's annual county allotment for County Conservation Aids funds
				Work with federal and state agencies to secure funds for preserving important wildlife habitat areas by writing 5 letters of support during this 10-year plan
				Work with sports groups such as Trout Unlimited and Wisconsin Waterfowl Association to secure funds for wildlife habitat preservation areas on 2 projects during this 10-year plan
	<b><i>Protect important wildlife habitat areas from invasive species and pests</i></b>	\$4,000		Apply for 1 state grant, if available, to secure funds for habitat protection
				Inform and educate landowners about the threats posed by invasive species and pests through an annual press release and 1 directed mailing
				Provide information to landowners on identifying invasive plant, animal, and insect species
				Promote (and maintain) the LCD sprayer as a tool to control invasive species (rent to 2 landowners/ year)
				Obtain DNR LMPN Surface Water Grant funds to hire an annual Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator intern to provide Clean Boats, Clean Waters outreach to protect area waters

Resource Concern #4 - Land Management - continued				
Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Limit wildlife damage to crops	<i>Administer the WIDNR's Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program for the county</i>	\$2,000		Assist 5 landowners per year with damage claims and ensure they are in compliance with the program
		\$19,250	\$3,000	

Resource Concern #5 - Waste Disposal				
Goals	Objectives	LCD Costs	Cost-share available	Actions with Annual Benchmarks
Provide hazardous waste recycling/disposal opportunities	<i>Collect/ re-use recyclables</i>	\$5,500		Coordinate an annual tire collection event
				Coordinate an annual electronics recycling event
				Encourage recycling of ag plastics (silo and bale bags) through an annual press release and social media posts
				Encourage paint and used battery recycling through an annual press release
	<i>Collect and remove hazardous waste</i>	\$3,000		Encourage collection of mercury and fluorescent bulbs through an annual press release and social media posts
				Coordinate an annual Household Hazardous Waste/ Ag Clean Sweep/ Prescription Drug Collection event
		\$8,500	\$0	

**Annual LCD Staffing Costs total \$224,750.**

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# Appendix C



## NR151 Compliance Checklist

Landowner(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town, Range Section \_\_\_\_\_

Cropland & Pasture Standards	In Compliance	Will Achieve Compliance (Season, Year)	Does not Apply
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A current nutrient management plan (NM) has been developed and implemented according to NRCS 590 standard which may be submitted to the county conservation office as a NM Plan Checklist form.

- Fields must have initial soil tests conducted by 2024 and follow crop management practices that are planned to comply with the 590 standard across the crop rotation. The NM plan must include current soil tests conducted by DATCP certified lab. Fields in a NM plan must: 1. Be updated when cropping systems change, 2. Include maps identifying NRCS 590 nutrient application restriction areas, 3. Have phosphorus applications planned over the entire rotation, and 4. Show no visible signs of gully erosion.
- Pastures are exempt from NM plan requirements if the pasture is a feedlot, or when the pasture's average stocking rate is 1 AU/acre or less during grazing season and no nutrients are mechanically applied [ATCP 50.04(3)(b)]. When the pasture's average stocking rate is more than 1 AU/acre over the grazing season, a planner may assume soil test values of 150 ppm P and 6% organic matter content [ATCP 50.04(3)(d) and (de)].

Cropped fields and pastures meet tolerable soil loss "T".



Method used to calculate "T":

SnapPlus  RUSLE 2  WEPS

- Fields must follow crop management practices that are planned to comply with the 590 standard across the crop rotation. Soil erosion rates should be estimated using the latest prediction models: Soil Nutrient Application Planner, Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 and Wind Erosion Prediction System [ATCP 50.04(2)Note].

Cropland and pasture areas average a phosphorus index of 6 or less over the accounting period and do not exceed a phosphorus index of 12 in any individual year within the accounting period.



- All cropland and pastures must comply with the Phosphorus Index (PI) standard [NR 151.04] [ATCP 50.04(1)]. A NM plan meeting the standard in ATCP 50.04(3) may be used to demonstrate compliance with DNR's PI standard.

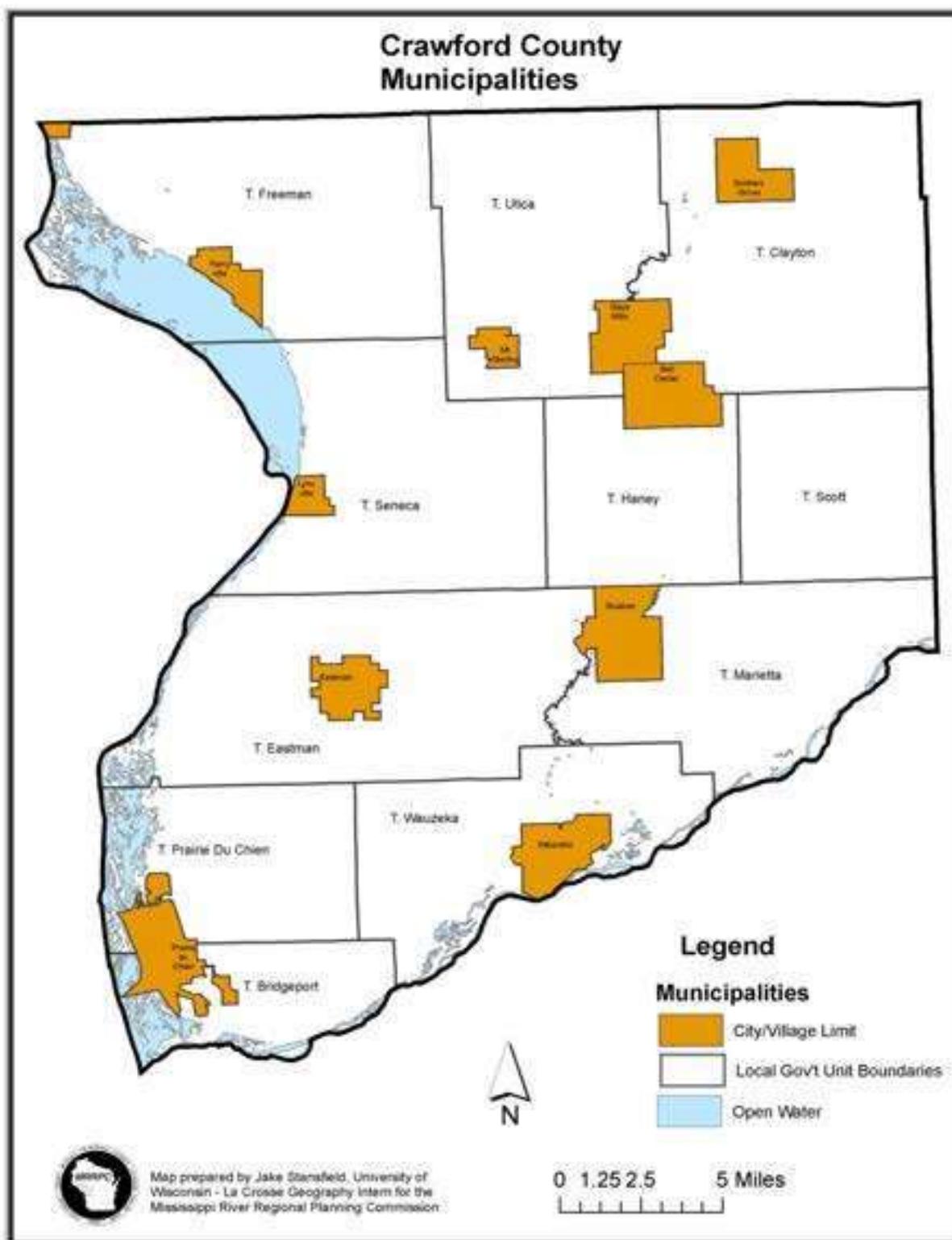
No tillage conducted within a minimum of 5 feet of surface water.

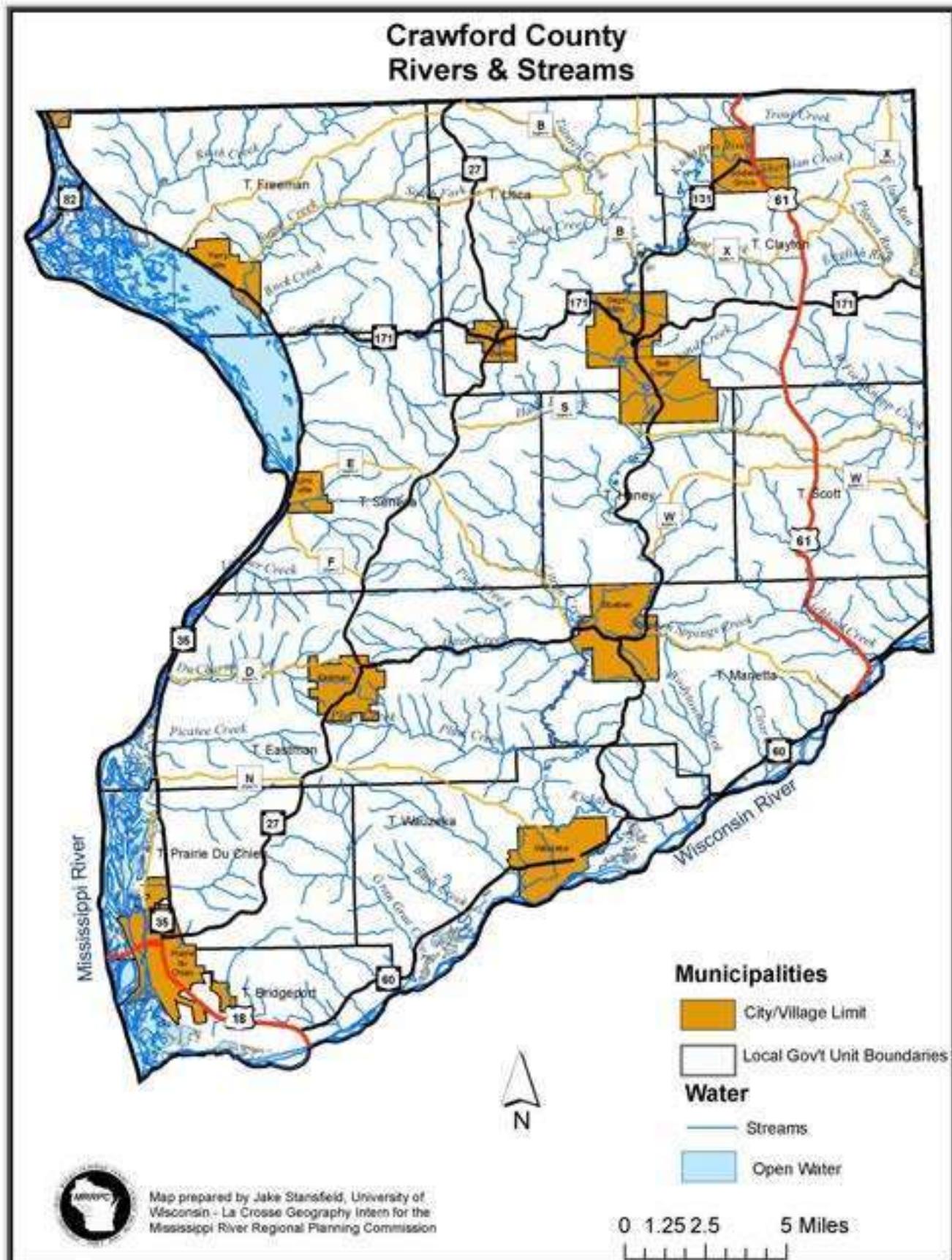


- Cropland must be managed to include a minimum setback of 5 feet from the top of the channel of surface waters. No tillage can occur and 70% vegetative cover must be maintained in that tillage setback zone to ensure bank integrity. Cost-sharing is not required to implement this practice [ATCP 50.04(4)(a); NR 151.03]. When establishing the setback width, start with 5 feet. If it is determined that 5 feet may not be adequate to maintain bank stability, county land conservation staff should [ATCP 50.04(4)(b)].
  - Use best professional judgment to increase setback width based on factors including bank materials, height, slope, cause of bank erosion, and soil type.
  - Increase the tillage setback width by smallest increment necessary to maintain bank stability.
  - Follow a consistent approach when making setback width determinations by consulting with NRCS or DATCP engineers or technicians.
  - Consider enrolling riparian areas in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) can achieve compliance with the tillage setback standard. [ATCP 50.04(4)(b) Note]

Livestock Standards	In Compliance	Will Achieve Compliance (Season, Year)	Does Not Apply
How many of the following facilities or structures are located in a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA)?			<input type="checkbox"/>
Feedlots: Barnyards: Manure storage:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The clean water diversion from feedlots and unconfined manure pile standards reference a water quality management area (WQMA). A WQMA is 1,000 feet from a lake, pond, or flowage or 300 feet from a stream, or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination [NR 151.015].</li> </ul>			
There are no unconfined manure piles in a WQMA.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Runoff is diverted away from all feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards within WQMA.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
There is self-sustaining sod or vegetative cover adequate to preserve streambank or lakeshore integrity in areas where livestock have access.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This does not apply to properly designed, installed and maintained livestock or farm equipment crossings.</li> </ul>			
How many manure storage facilities are located on the entire farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Facilities have no visible signs of leakage or failure.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities are maintained to prevent overflow.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Each storage facility that has not had manure added or removed from the facility for a period of 24 months has either been closed in a manner that will prevent future contamination of ground or surface water or has been approved by DNR for continued use.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities constructed or substantially altered after 2002 meet the NRCS 313 standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
There are no significant discharges of process wastewater to waters of the state from feed storage or other sources.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
There are no channels or other visible signs of significant discharge from a feedlot or stored manure into waters of the state.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock operators must prevent a “significant” discharge from manure and feed storage, feedlots, and process wastewater. A “significant” discharge is based on factors such as volume, frequency, receiving waters, and slope. DATCP grant funds may be used to provide cost-sharing for a feed storage runoff control system as long as the system meets applicable standards including NRCS technical guide waste treatment standard 629 [ATCP 50.705].</li> <li>Livestock operators may consider low cost options for removing “significant” direct feedlot runoff such as: 1. Grazing cattle on nearby fields. 2. Collecting lot manure on a consistent basis and field applying in accordance with a nutrient management plan. 3. Removing channels with roof gutters, clean water diversions, or rock spreader diversions with harvested vegetative runoff filters.</li> </ul>			

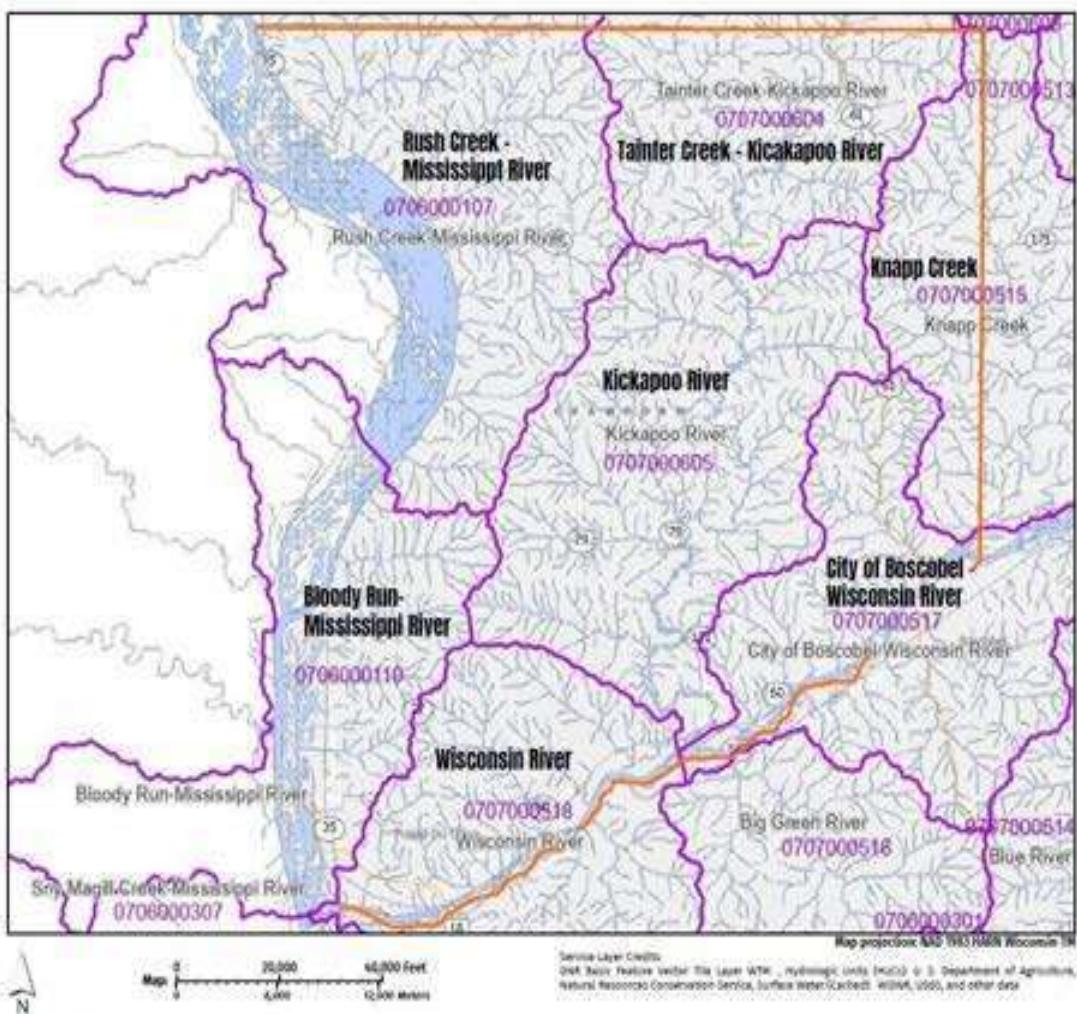
## Appendix D





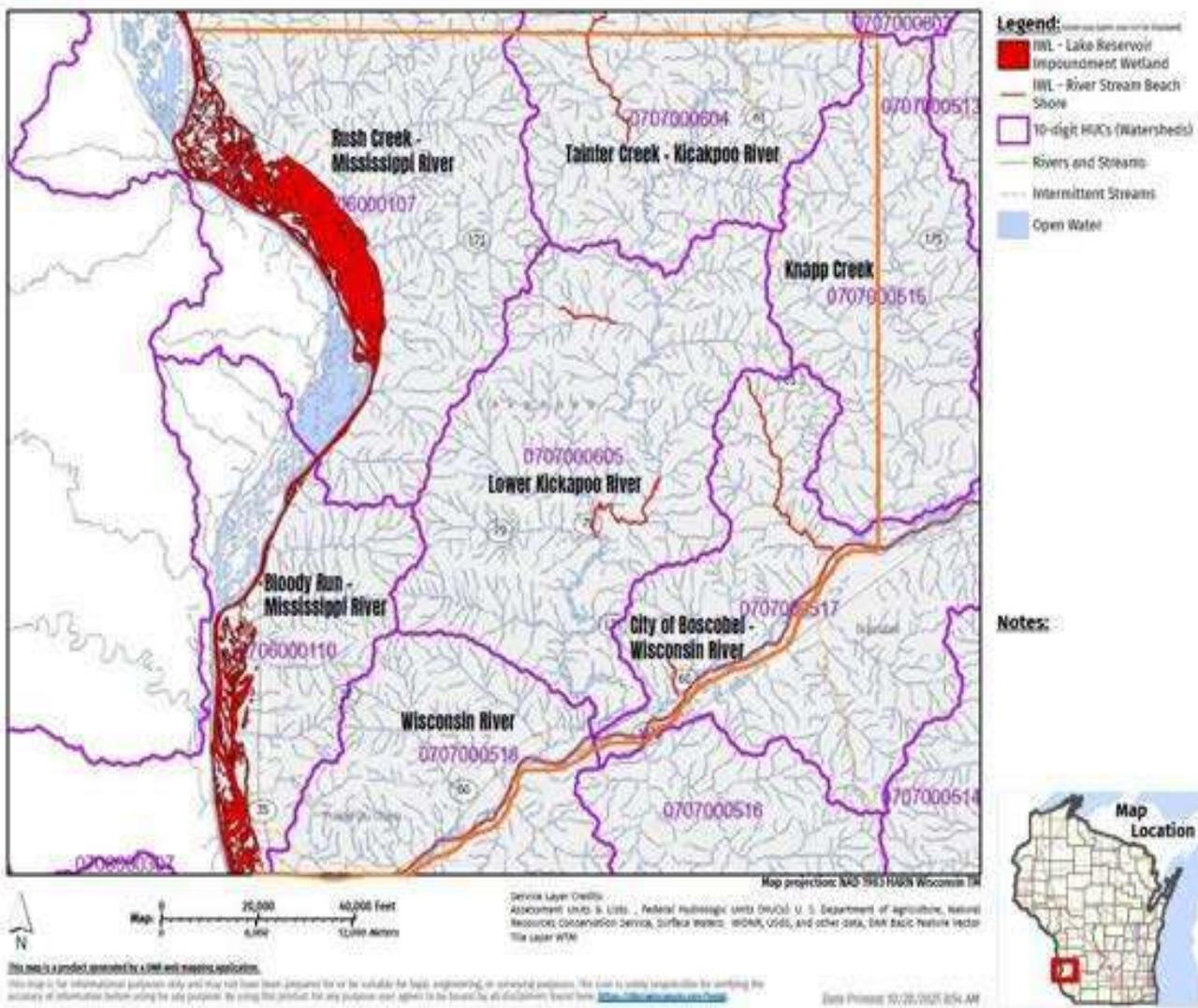


## Crawford County Watersheds HUC 10

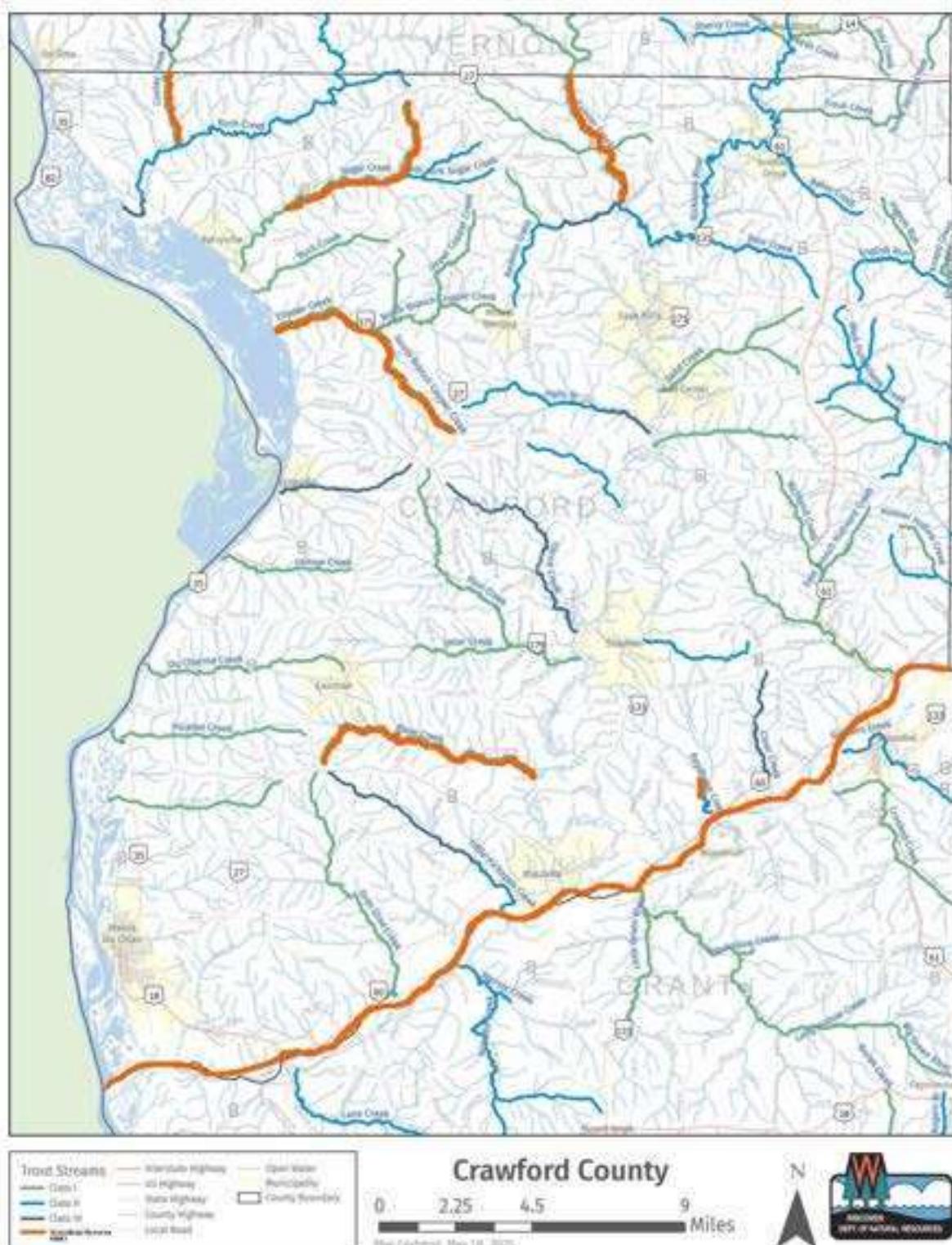




## Crawford County 2025 - Impaired Waters and Watersheds



## Crawford County Exceptional Resource Waters & Trout Stream Classifications





## CDL2024 CDL, Crawford County, Wisconsin



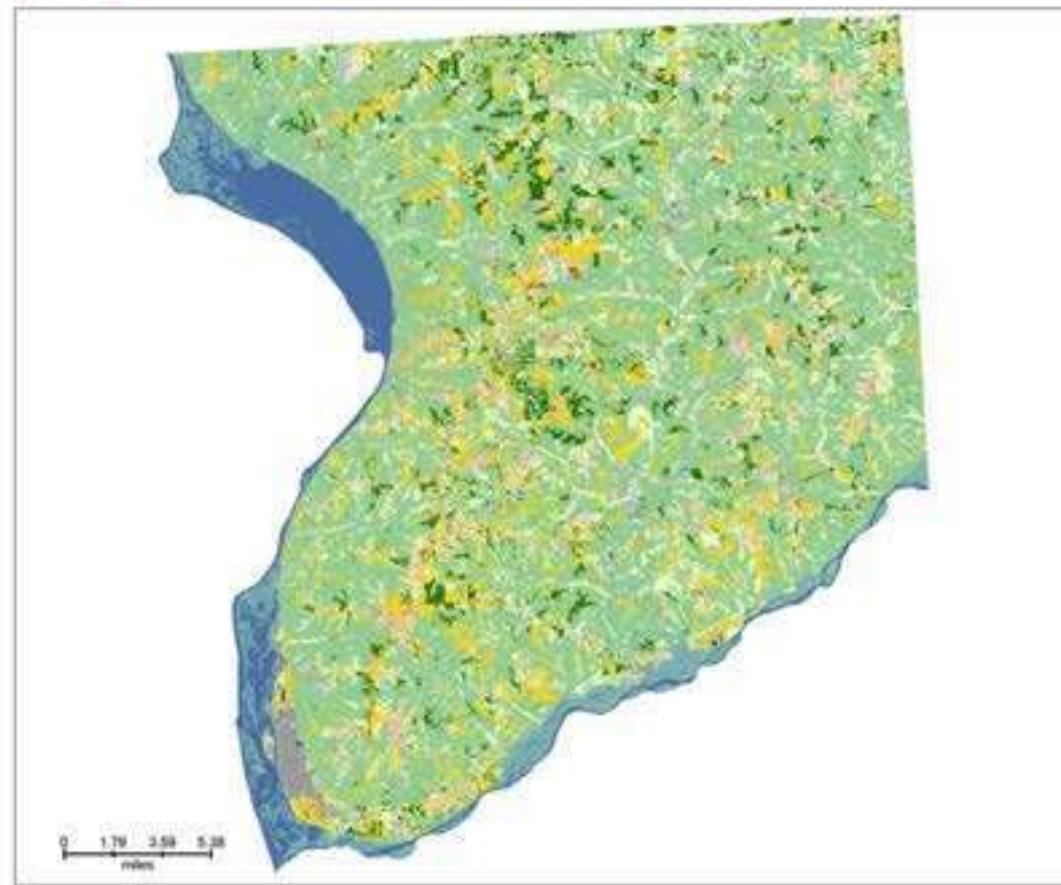
### Land Cover Categories (by decreasing acreage)

#### AGRICULTURE\*

- Grass/Pasture
- Corn
- Soybeans
- Alfalfa
- Oats
- Winter Wheat
- Rye
- Barley
- Sorghum
- Tobacco
- Apples
- Pumpkins
- Fallow/Idle Cropland
- Oil Crop/Silage/Oats
- Mac/Vegetables/Fruits
- Sweet Corn

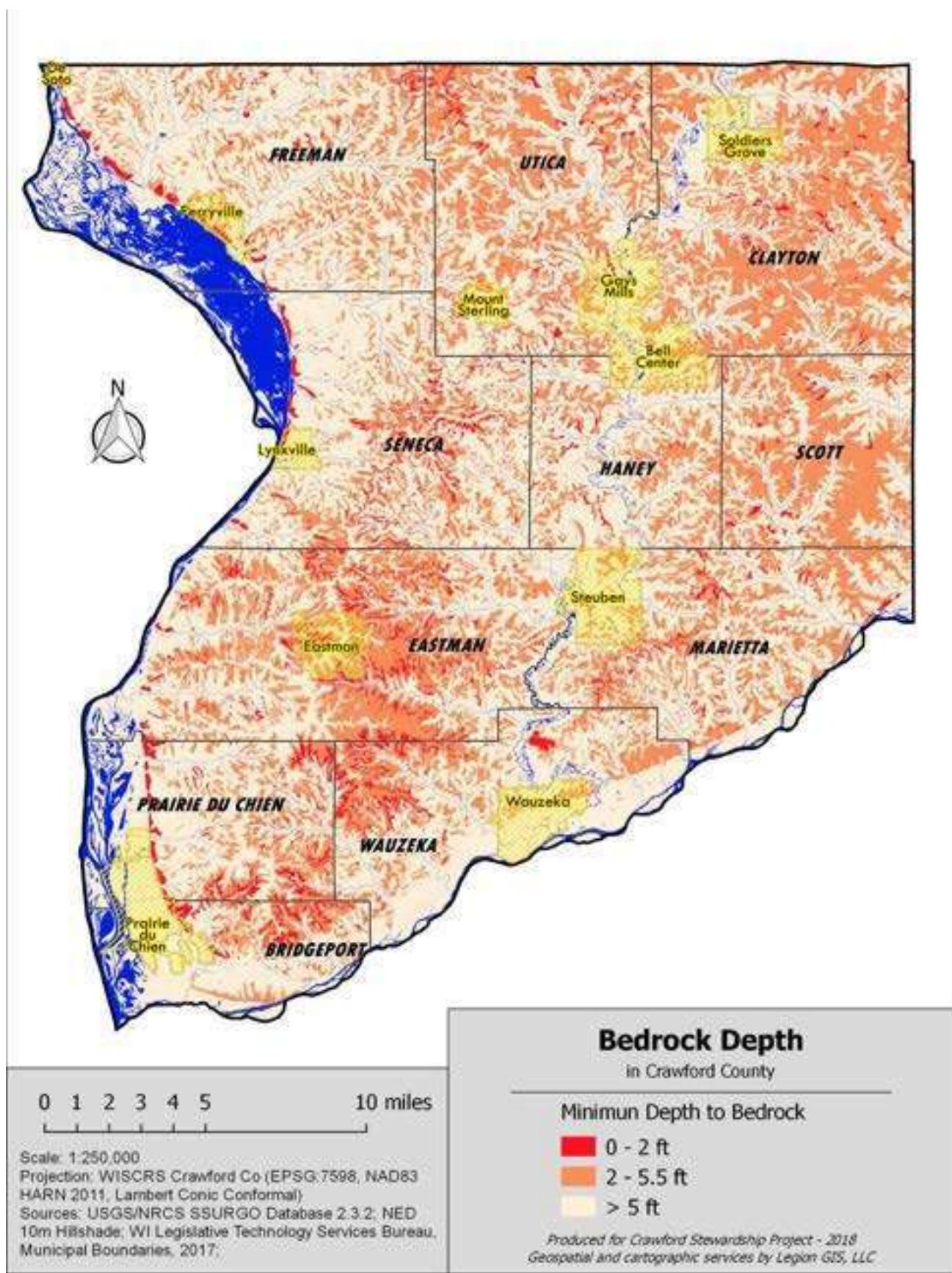
#### NON-AGRICULTURE\*\*

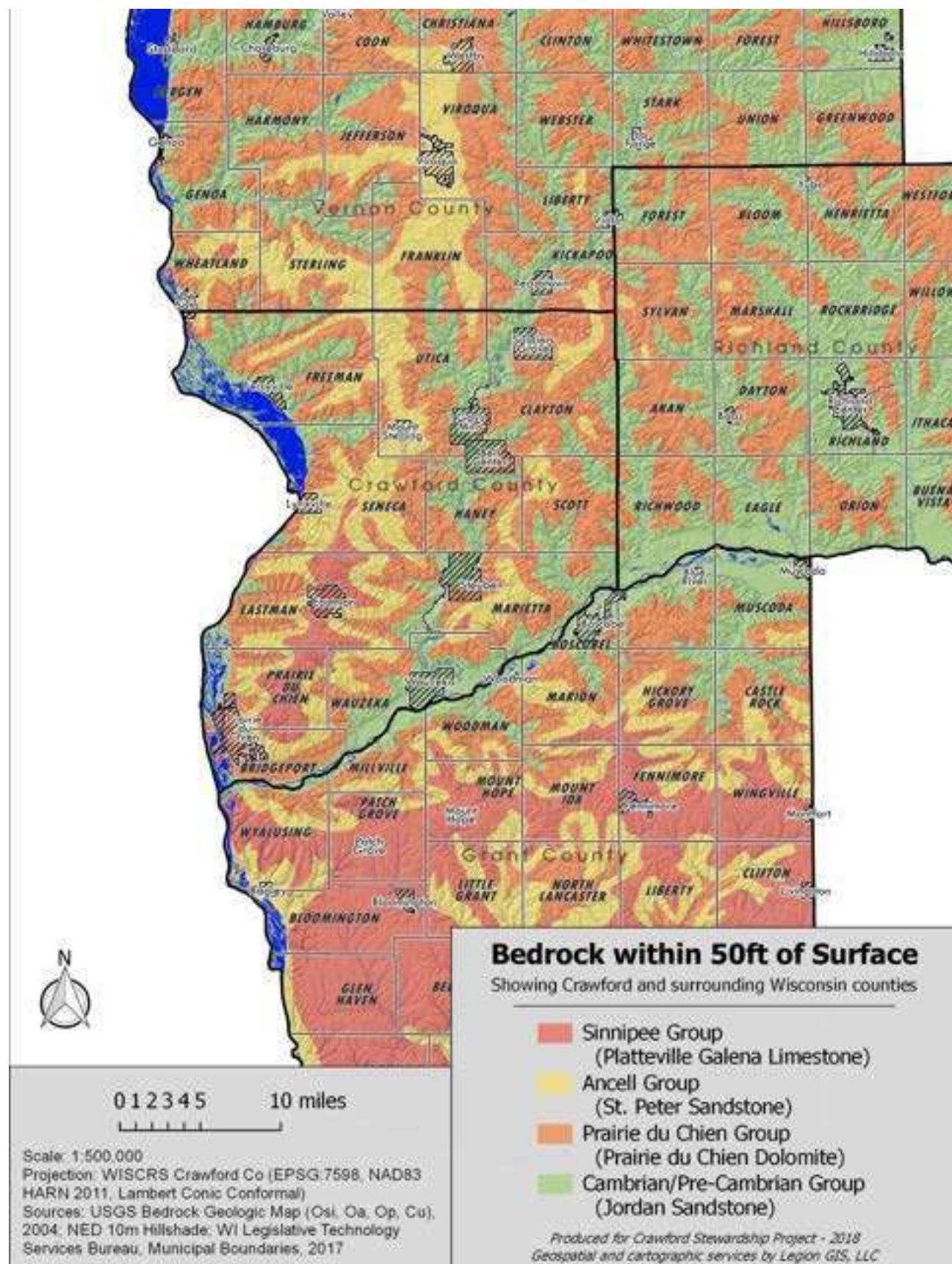
- Deciduous Forest
- Open Water
- Wetland
- Developed/Open Space
- Developed/Low Intensity
- Herbaceous Wetland



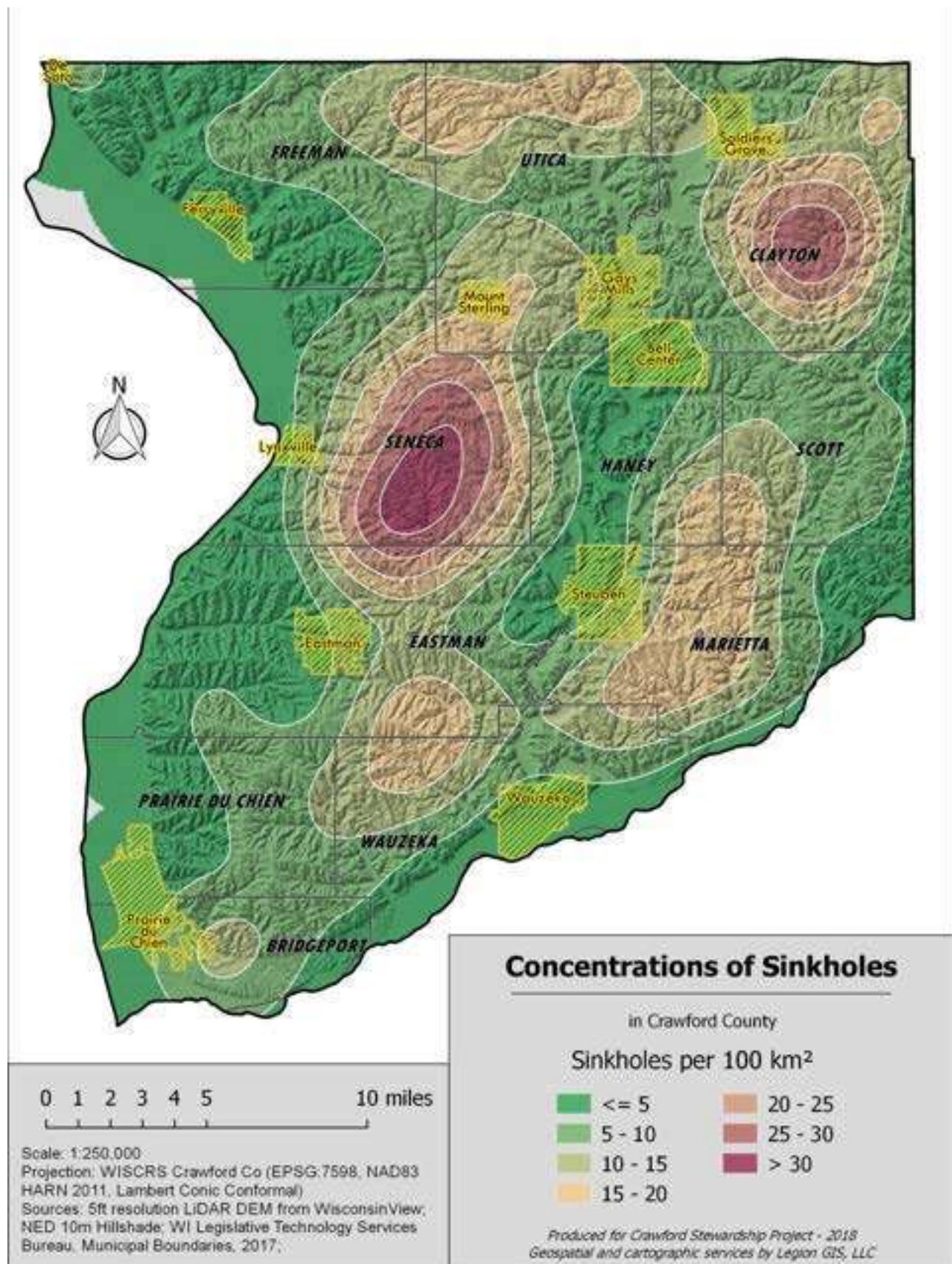
Source: USDA-NASS - 2024 National Land Cover Data

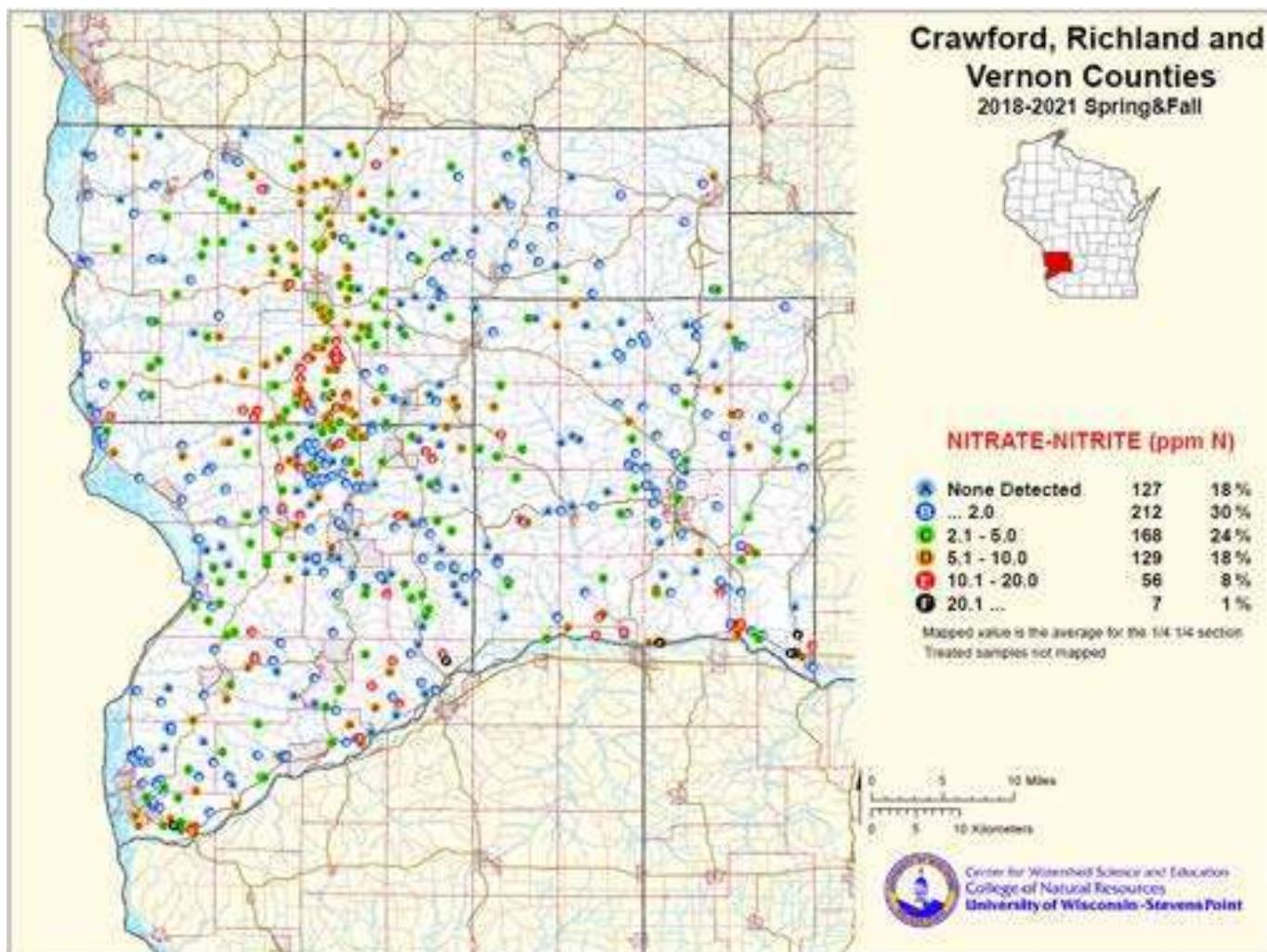
Top 15 agricultural crops: Corn, soybeans, oats, hay, alfalfa, winter wheat, rye, barley, sorghum, tobacco, apples, pumpkins, fallow/idle cropland, oil crop/silage/oats, mac/veggies/fruit, sweet corn



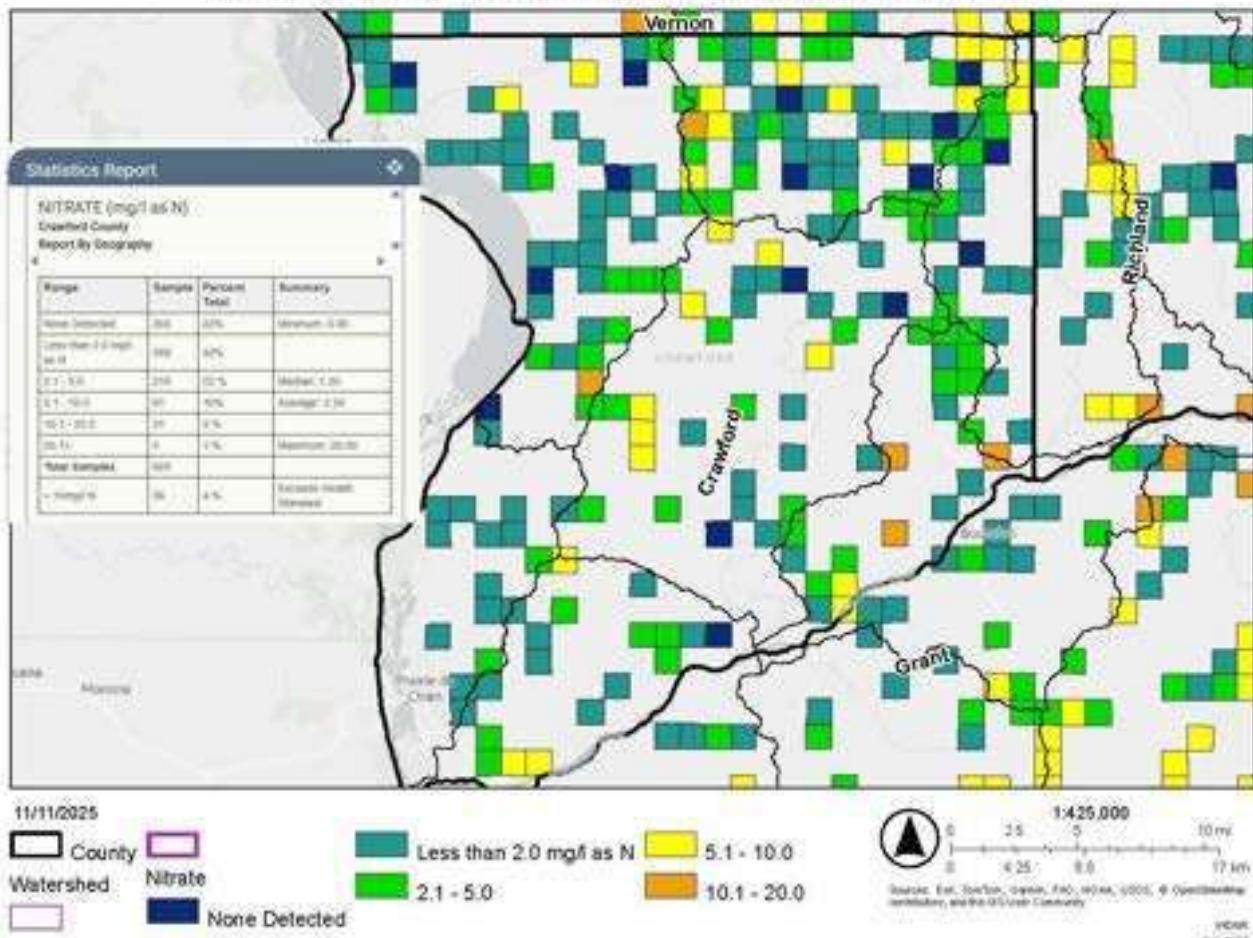




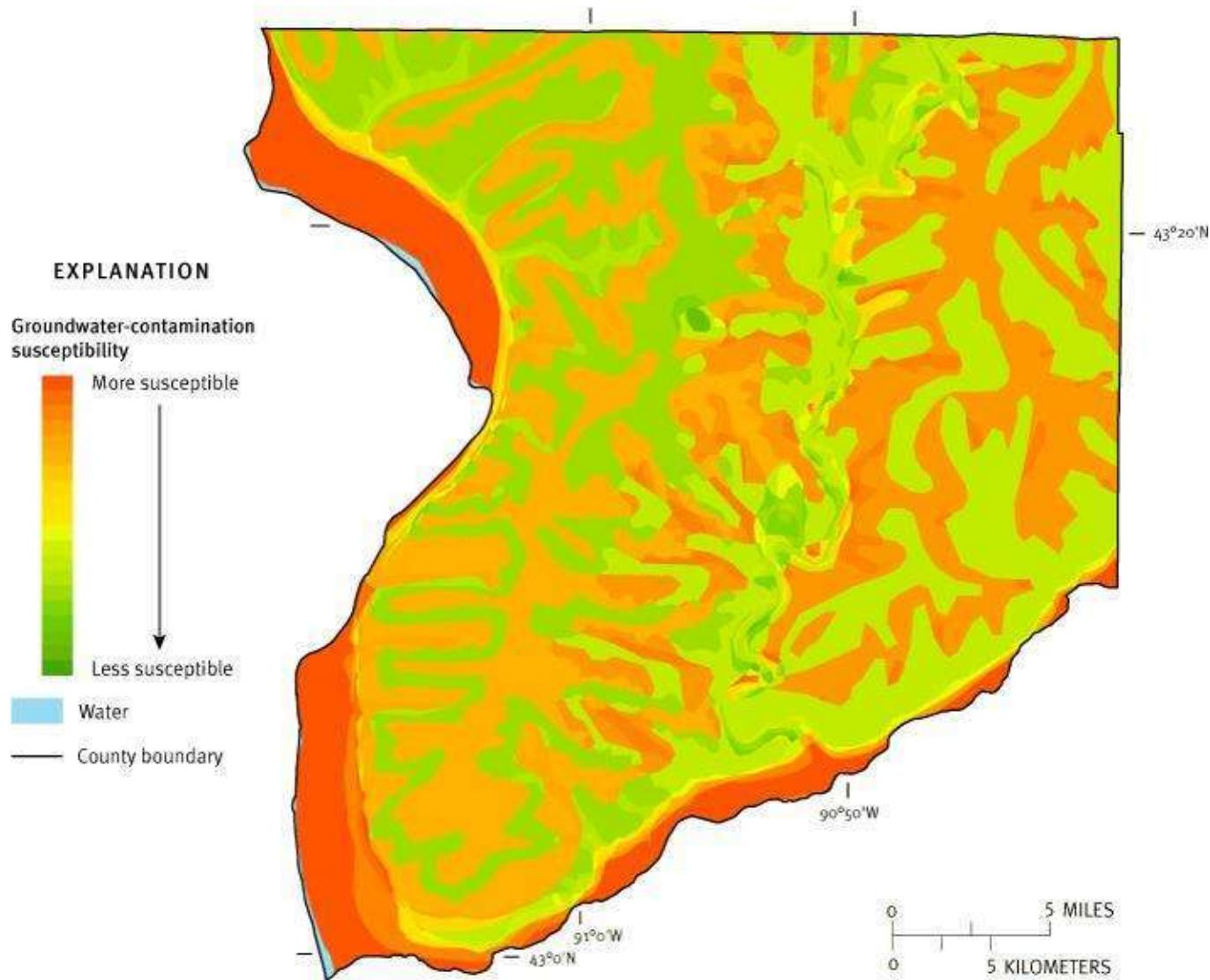




Crawford County - Private Wells Nitrate Contamination - 2025



## Crawford County – Groundwater-Contamination Susceptibility Analysis

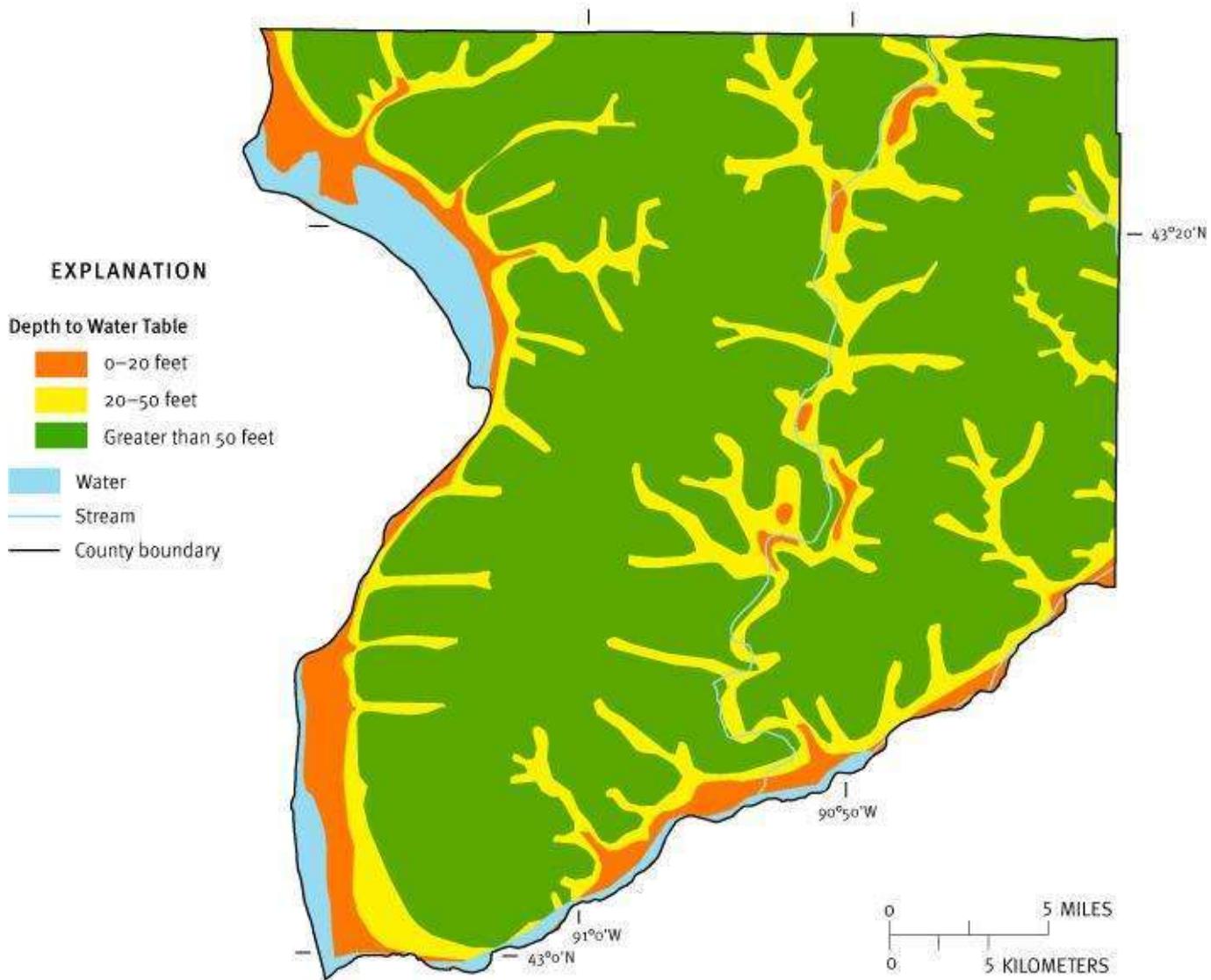


This groundwater-contamination susceptibility map is a composite of five resource characteristic maps, each of which was derived from generalized statewide information at small scales, and cannot be used for any site-specific purposes.

Map source: Schmidt, R.R., 1987, Groundwater contamination susceptibility map and evaluation: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin's Groundwater Management Plan Report 5, PUBL-WR-177-87, 27 p.

Figure created for the "Protecting Wisconsin's Groundwater Through Comprehensive Planning" web site, 2007, <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/gwcomp/>

## Crawford County – Depth to Water Table

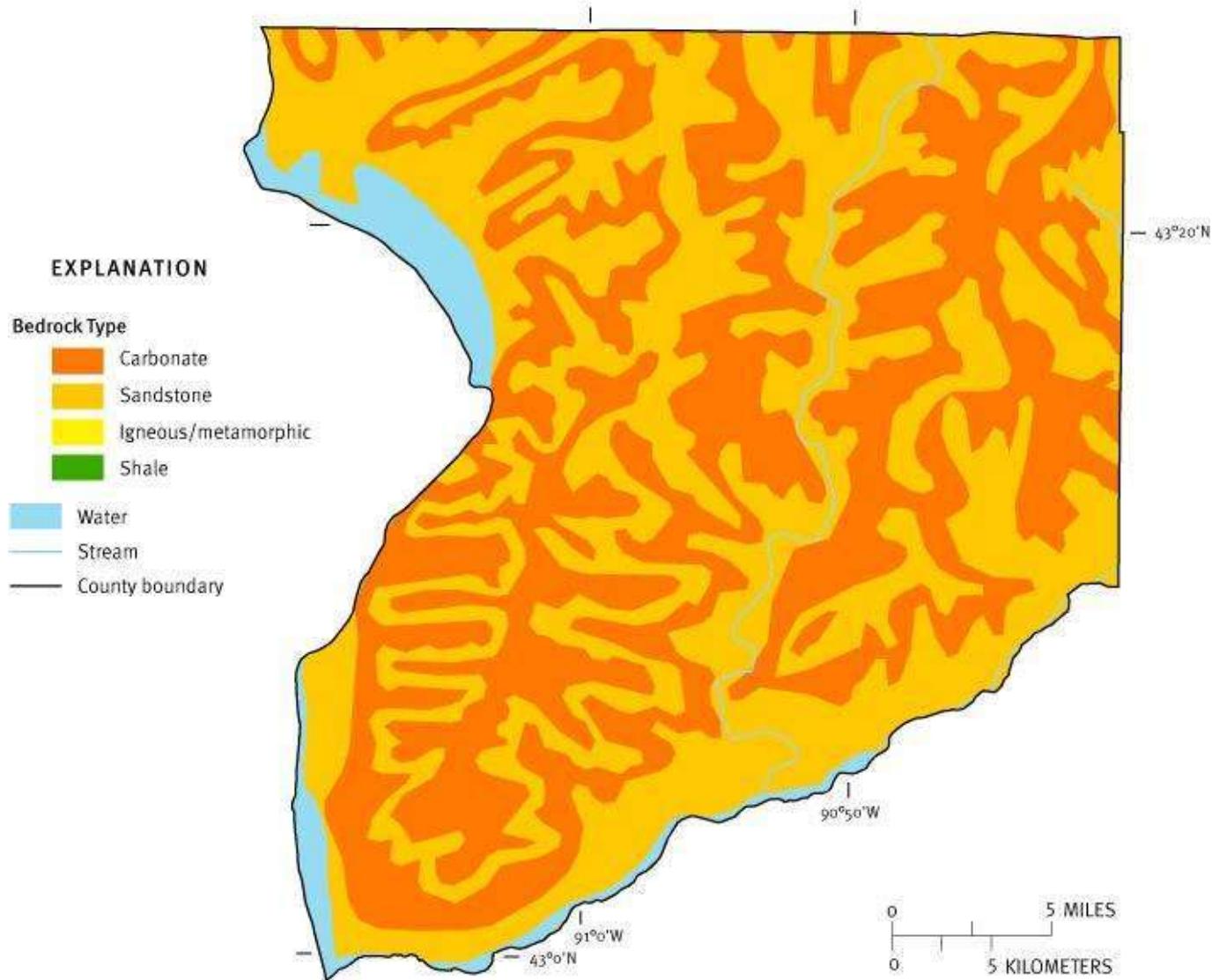


This resource characteristic map was derived from generalized statewide information at small scales, and cannot be used for any site-specific purposes.

Map source: Schmidt, R.R., 1987, Groundwater contamination susceptibility map and evaluation: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin's Groundwater Management Plan Report 5, PUBL-WR-177-87, 27 p.

Figure created for the "Protecting Wisconsin's Groundwater Through Comprehensive Planning" web site, 2007, <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/gwcomp/>

## Crawford County – Bedrock Type



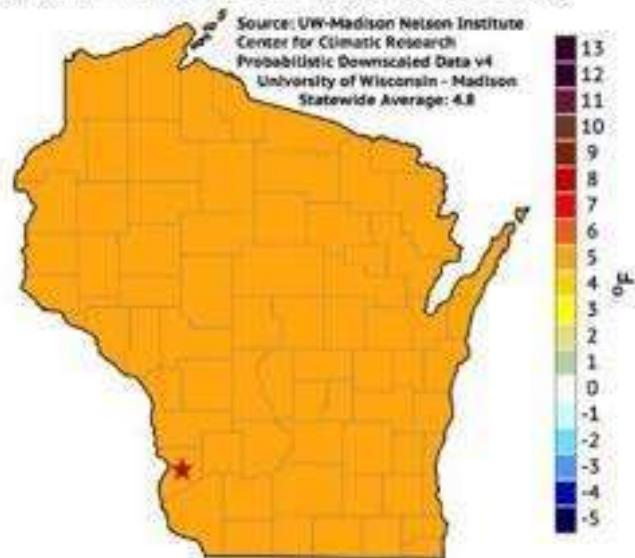
This resource characteristic map was derived from generalized statewide information at small scales, and cannot be used for any site-specific purposes.

Map source: Schmidt, R.R., 1987, Groundwater contamination susceptibility map and evaluation: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin's Groundwater Management Plan Report 5, PUBL-WR-177-87, 27 p.

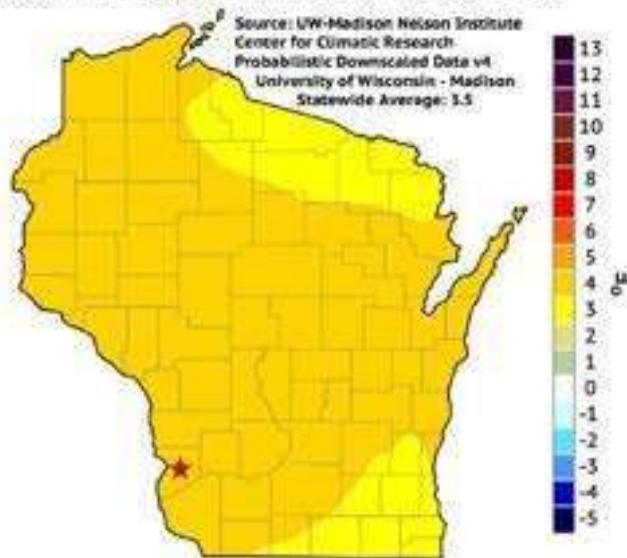
Figure created for the "Protecting Wisconsin's Groundwater Through Comprehensive Planning" web site, 2007, <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/gwcomp/>

## Projected Change in Average Temperature by Season

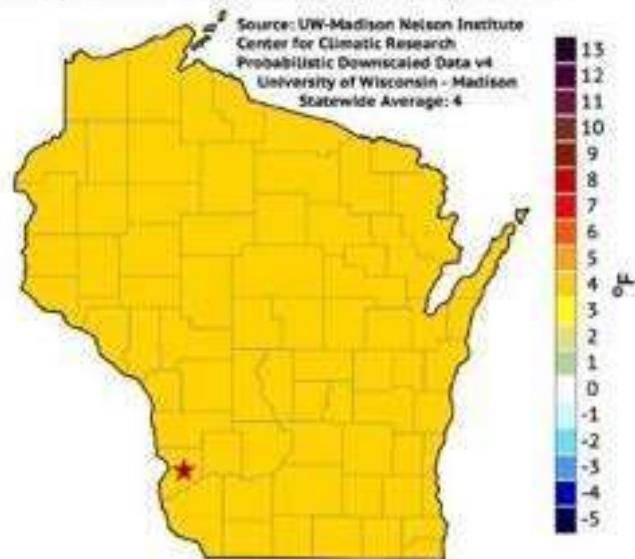
**Change in Winter Daily Mean Temperature  
Medium Emissions, 2041-2060 vs. 1991-2020**



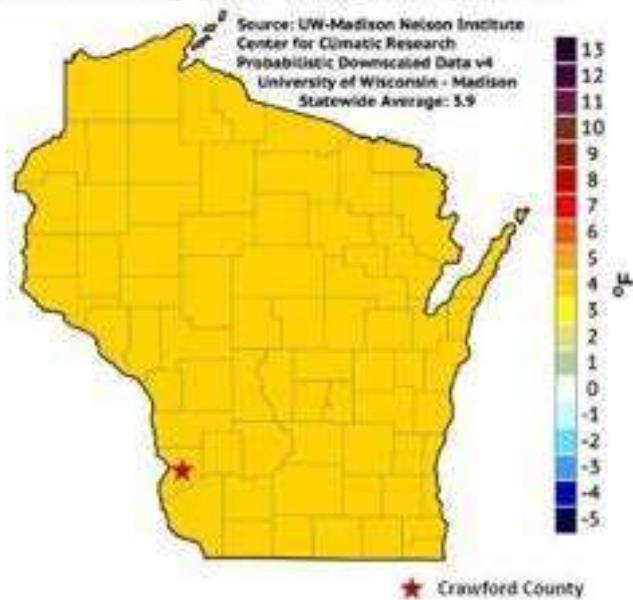
**Change in Spring Daily Mean Temperature  
Medium Emissions, 2041-2060 vs. 1991-2020**



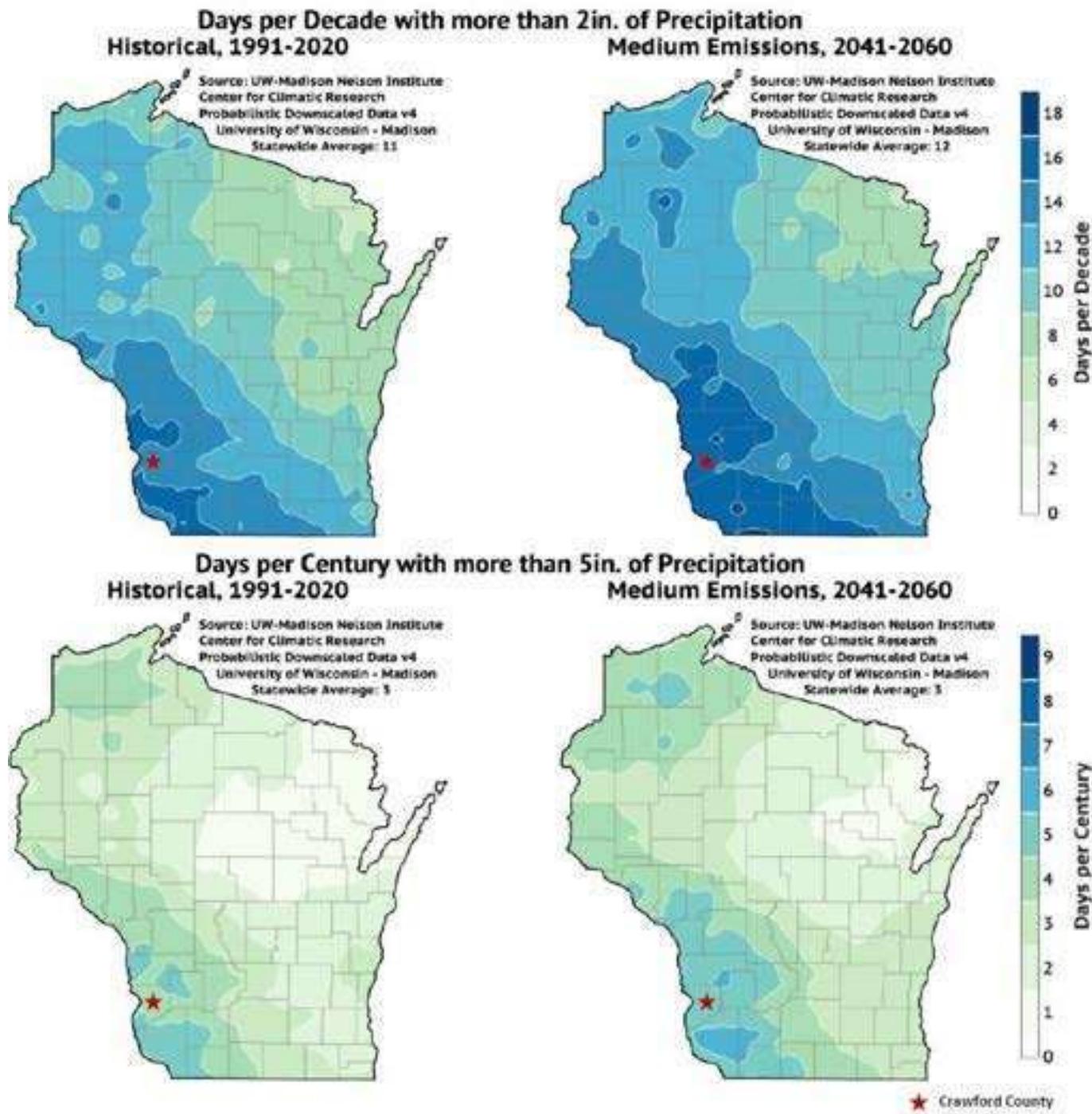
**Change in Summer Daily Mean Temperature  
Medium Emissions, 2041-2060 vs. 1991-2020**



**Change in Fall Daily Mean Temperature  
Medium Emissions, 2041-2060 vs. 1991-2020**



## Projected Change in Extreme Precipitation



RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**

Initiated By:

Land Conservation, Planning and  
Zoning Committee

Drafted By:

Michal J. Peterson  
Corporation Counsel

Submitted By:

Land Conservation, Planning and  
Zoning Committee

Date Drafted:

January 26, 2026

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(LWRM) FOR SUBMISSION TO THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)**

**WHEREAS**, through 1997 Wisconsin Act 27, Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes was amended, requiring counties to develop Land and Water Resource Management Plans, and this statutory amendment provided Crawford County with the opportunity to assess our resource conditions and needs and to decide how we can best meet our goals; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the intent of this change was to develop a locally led process that would utilize local, state, and federal funds to protect our land and water resources; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Crawford County brought a diverse group of stakeholders together including local government officials and staff, special interest groups, and citizens, to assist in the development of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan; **and**,

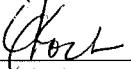
**WHEREAS**, Crawford County held a public hearing on November 11, 2025 to accept comments on the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan; **and**,

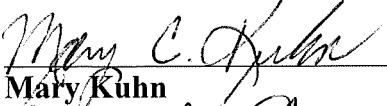
**WHEREAS**, counties that want to be eligible to receive soil and water resource management grant funds from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) must submit a plan and funding request based upon an approved Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors approves the ten-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan presented by the Land & Water Conservation Committee,

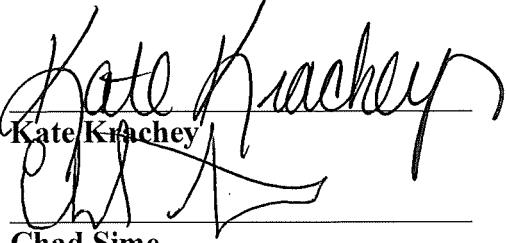
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution and a copy of the plan be provided to DATCP for State approval.

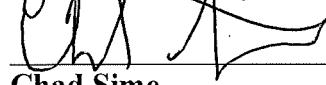
Submitted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gary Koch, Chairman**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mary Kuhn**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Owen DuCharme**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kate Kraschey**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chad Sime**

Passed and approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

---

**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

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**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 6-2026

AGENDA NO. I-4

**RESOLUTION**

Initiated By:  
County Board Chairman

Drafted By:  
Mark A. Peterson  
Corporation Counsel

Submitted By:  
County Board Chairman

Date Drafted:  
February \_\_\_, 2026

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CORPORATION COUNSEL TO SUBMIT  
NOTICE OF DISALLOWANCE OF CLAIM**

**WHEREAS**, the County (specifically including the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department) has received a "Claim" against it pursuant to Sec. 893.80 of the Wisconsin Statutes on behalf of Michael Strait, which claim the County contests and denies; and

**WHEREAS**, said statutory Section requires response thereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** the County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the County Corporation Counsel submit a Notice of Disallowance of said Claim in conformity with said Section 893.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted by the Crawford County Board of Supervisors this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

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**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

Passed and approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

---

**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

---

**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

**NOTICE OF DISALLOWANCE OF CLAIM  
PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. §893.80**

To: Michael Strait – Claimant  
117 S. State St.  
P. O. Box 111  
La Farge, WI 54639  
*Via Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested*

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the County of Crawford, State of Wisconsin, generally and specifically including its subunits the Crawford County Board of Supervisors and the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, do in accordance with the provisions of Section 893.80(1g) of the Wisconsin Statutes disallow in its entirety the "Claim" dated December 18, 2025, submitted and executed by Claimant Michael Strait.

No action may be brought under said Section 893.80(1g) against any defendant fire company, corporation, subdivision or agency nor against any defendant officer, official, agent or employee, may be brought after 6 months from the date of service of this notice of disallowance.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN**  
By:

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Mark A. Peterson, Corporation Counsel

## **OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL CRAWFORD COUNTY**

January 9, 2026

Roberta A. Fisher  
Crawford County Clerk  
225 N. Beaumont Road  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Re: Jacob Sell and Michael Strait  
Notice of Claim Received

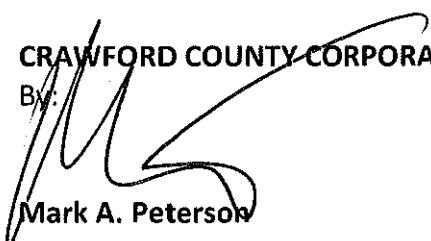
Robin:

Enclosed find packets of the following documents regarding each of the above Notices of Claim received:

- Notice of Claim
- Claim
- Proposed Resolution regarding disallowance of such claim dated for the February 17, 2026 County Board meeting.
- Notice of Disallowance we will serve on each claimant thereafter.

Please be certain to include these matters on the agenda for the February 17, 2026 County Board meeting. If you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,

**CRAWFORD COUNTY CORPORATION COUNSEL**  
By:  
  
Mark A. Peterson

MAP:haj

Enc.

## **NOTICE OF CLAIM**

Clayton Township  
13069 US Highway 61  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Bill Olson  
16336 Store Rd  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Crawford County Sheriff's Department  
224 N Beaumont Rd,  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

Crawford County Board of Supervisors  
Roberta A. Fisher – County Clerk  
224 N Beaumont Rd,  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to Clayton Township, Bill Olson, Crawford County Sheriff's Department and Crawford County Board of Supervisors that the person whose name and address are given below asserts a **CLAIM** against Clayton Township, Bill Olson, Crawford County Sheriff's Department and Crawford County Board of Supervisors for compensatory and punitive damages totaling \$8,290,000 resulting from the following events and circumstances, of which, those related to the damages occurred on or within 120 days of this **NOTICE**.

**The CLAIMANT states the following;**

The following incident gives rise to the attached claim. On or about August 22, 2025 I learned that Clayton Township and Crawford County Sheriff had seized my RV from where it was parked at 44467 Sand Creek Rd. in Clayton Township.

I had purchased the RV in July 2025 and immediately registered it and applied for collector plates. The collector plates arrived and were placed on the RV in the customary place for license plates. There had been no notice given to me that the RV was in violation of any law or ordinance when it was seized. The RV contained personal belongings including bedding, dishes, décor, TV and tools.

I was notified that the vehicle was emptied of its contents and sent to the junkyard where it was destroyed. I was never contacted about the RV or given any opportunity to retrieve the RV or any of my personal belongings.

The **CLAIMANT** further asserts that acts complained of above were carried out under the authority of the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, Crawford County Board of Supervisors, Clayton Township and directly by Bill Olson.

The **CLAIMANT** affirms the above to correct and true to the best of his knowledge and believes it will be corroborated by multiple officer-worn body cameras and sworn testimony already given by Bill Olson, the owner of the company involved in the removal of the items and the owner of the auction company involved in selling Jacob Sell's items.

Michael Strait  
117 S. State #2  
PO Box 111  
La Farge, WI 54639

Dated: 18 December 2025

Electronically signed by Michael Strait

## **CLAIM**

### **CLAIM TO:**

Clayton Township  
13069 US Highway 61  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Crawford County Sheriff's Department  
224 N Beaumont Rd,  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

Bill Olson  
16336 Store Rd  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Crawford Co. Board of Supervisors  
Roberta A. Fisher – County Clerk  
225 N. Beaumont Rd.  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

The **CLAIMANT**, whose name and address are stated below, hereby demands of Crawford County Sheriff's Department, Crawford County Board of Supervisors, Clayton Township and Bill Olson, Clayton Township Chairperson, monetary relief to which he is entitled by law because of acts of Crawford County Sheriff's Department, Crawford County Board of Supervisors, Clayton Township and Bill Olson, Clayton Township Chairperson. The circumstances giving rise to this **CLAIM** are described in the **NOTICE OF CLAIM**.

**CLAIMANT** demands monetary relief itemized as follows:

Compensatory Damages for Emotional Suffering \$200,000.00

Punitive Damages for Unreasonable Search and Seizure \$200,000.00

Damages for Loss of Personal Property \$ 4,200.00

**TOTAL CLAIM:** \$404,200.00

**Failure of the appropriate body to act on this CLAIM within 120 days after presentation will be considered a disallowance.**

### **CLAIMANT:**

Michael Strait  
117 S. State St.  
PO Box 111  
La Farge, WI 54639

Dated: 18 December 2025 Electronically signed by Michael Strait

RESOLUTION NO. 7-2026

AGENDA NO. I- 7

**RESOLUTION**

Initiated By:  
County Board Chairman

Drafted By:  
Mark A. Peterson  
Corporation Counsel

Submitted By:  
County Board Chairman

Date Drafted:  
February \_\_\_, 2026

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CORPORATION COUNSEL TO SUBMIT  
NOTICE OF DISALLOWANCE OF CLAIM**

**WHEREAS**, the County (specifically including the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department) has received a "Claim" against it made pursuant to Sec. 893.80 of the Wisconsin Statutes on behalf of Jacob Sell, which claim the County contests and denies; and

**WHEREAS**, said statutory Section requires response thereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** the County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the County Corporation Counsel submit a Notice of Disallowance of said Claim in conformity with said Section 893.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted by the Crawford County Board of Supervisors this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

---

**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

Passed and approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

---

**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

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**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

**NOTICE OF DISALLOWANCE OF CLAIM  
PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. §893.80**

To: Jacob Sell – Claimant  
P. O. Box 282  
La Farge, WI 54639  
*Via Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested*

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the County of Crawford, State of Wisconsin, generally and specifically including its subunits the Crawford County Board of Supervisors and the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, do in accordance with the provisions of Section 893.80(1g) of the Wisconsin Statutes disallow in its entirety the "Claim" dated December 16, 2025, submitted and executed by Claimant Jacob Sell.

No action may be brought under said Section 893.80(1g) against any defendant fire company, corporation, subdivision or agency nor against any defendant officer, official, agent or employee, may be brought after 6 months from the date of service of this notice of disallowance.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN**  
By:

---

Mark A. Peterson, Corporation Counsel

## **NOTICE OF CLAIM**

Clayton Township  
13069 US Highway 61  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Bill Olson  
16336 Store Rd  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Crawford County Sheriff's Department  
224 N Beaumont Rd,  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

Crawford County Board of Supervisors  
Roberta A. Fisher – County Clerk  
224 N Beaumont Rd,  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to Clayton Township, Bill Olson, Crawford County Sheriff's Department and Crawford County Board of Supervisors that the person whose name and address are given below asserts a **CLAIM** against Clayton Township, Bill Olson, Crawford County Sheriff's Department and Crawford County Board of Supervisors for compensatory and punitive damages totaling \$8,290,000 resulting from the following events and circumstances, of which, those related to the damages occurred on or within 120 days of this **NOTICE**.

**The CLAIMANT states the following:**

The following incident gives rise to the attached claim. On or about August 20, 2025 several officers from Crawford County Sheriff's Department arrived at 44467 Sand Creek Road, Gays Mills, WI which is in Clayton Township to serve an abatement warrant for Clayton Township. The warrant was based on the enforcement of Clayton Township's "Junk Ordinance" which prohibits junk, garbage or debris to be visible from the roadway. The ordinance also prohibits more than 2 unregistered vehicles to be visible from the roadway. According to testimony from one of the workers hired to remove items, he was instructed by Bill Olson, Clayton Township Chairperson, to take all items and vehicles outside of a "tree line" regardless of what the items were (some was cases of brand-new merchandise in the package) or whether the vehicles were registered or not.

The vehicles and items were seized and immediately taken to the Clayton Township shop where the vehicles were emptied of their contents and anything deemed to be worth less than \$20 in value when sold at auction was disposed of or dispersed. The vehicles, rather than being placed in impound, were immediately taken to a junkyard where they were immediately destroyed. Jacob Sell was never given an opportunity to claim his vehicles or personal property before they were dispersed and destroyed.

Jacob Sell testified that the RV they seized of his was where he lived and which he took to New Mexico in the winter to continue his business. Within Jacob Sell's RV which was seized, which was registered and had permanent collector license plates attached to it, was Jacob Sell's clothing, bedding, private papers including legal documents, passport and birth certificate, books, laptop computer, personal drawings and designs, tools, hardware, supplies and over \$25,000 worth of Jacob Sell's business inventory consisting of rocks, fossils, jewelry, silver and related items and displays which were sold off at auction by Clayton Township.

Also seized were 7 of Jacob Sell's trailers with their contents including tools, antiques, lumber, sporting goods, hardware and other merchandise. Also seized were two full size buses plus all of their contents which consisted of shop tools, furniture, sporting gear, collectibles, collectible cards, rocks, crystals, fossils, retail displays, retail signage, building supplies, rolling toolboxes, electric bikes, a tandem bike, other bikes and other assorted items. An application for collector plates had been made for one of the buses. This bus had the application for collector plates placed in the window pending the arrival of the plates.

Also seized was a flatbed truck for agriculture purposes. The Clayton township "Junk Ordinance" states that vehicles used for agricultural purposes were exempt from the ordinance.

Also seized were Jacob Sell's power generators that he relied on for electricity, Jacob Sell's lawn mowers, lumber, truck topper, step ladder, utility wagon, building supplies and various outdoor antique décor such as milk cans and cast-iron cauldrons.

All items seized were lawful within the scope of the Clayton Township "Junk Ordinance". There was only one unregistered vehicle that was not used for agricultural purposes visible from the roadway and the "Junk Ordinance" allows for two.

The **CLAIMANT** further asserts that acts complained of above were carried out under the authority of the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, Crawford County Board of Supervisors, Clayton Township and directly by Bill Olson.

The **CLAIMANT** affirms the above to correct and true to the best of his knowledge and believes it will be corroborated by multiple officer-worn body cameras and sworn testimony already given by Bill Olson, the owner of the company involved in the removal of the items and the owner of the auction company involved in selling Jacob Sell's items.

Jacob Sell  
PO Box 282  
La Farge, WI 54639

Dated: 16 December 2025

electronically signed by Jacob Sell

## CLAIM

### **CLAIM TO:**

Clayton Township  
13069 US Highway 61  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Crawford County Sheriff's Department  
224 N Beaumont Rd,  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

Bill Olson  
16336 Store Rd  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

Crawford Co. Board of Supervisors  
Roberta A. Fisher – County Clerk  
225 N. Beaumont Rd.  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;

The **CLAIMANT**, whose name and address are stated below, hereby demands of Crawford County Sheriff's Department, Crawford County Board of Supervisors, Clayton Township and Bill Olson, Clayton Township Chairperson, monetary relief to which he is entitled by law because of acts of Crawford County Sheriff's Department, Crawford County Board of Supervisors, Clayton Township and Bill Olson, Clayton Township Chairperson. The circumstances giving rise to this **CLAIM** are described in the **NOTICE OF CLAIM**.

**CLAIMANT** demands monetary relief itemized as follows:

Compensatory Damages for Emotional Suffering \$4,100,000.00

Punitive Damages for Unreasonable Search and Seizure \$4,100,000.00

Damages for Loss of Personal Property \$ 90,000.00

**TOTAL CLAIM:** \$8,290,000.00

**Failure of the appropriate body to act on this CLAIM within 120 days after presentation will be considered a disallowance.**

### **CLAIMANT:**

Jacob Sell  
PO Box 282  
La Farge, WI 54639

Dated: 16 December 2025

signed electronically by Jacob Sell

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Approval of “Chief Elected Officials Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area”**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA), federal funds are provided to states to provide job skills education and training and to help individuals find employment; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin receives such funds through 11 Workforce Development Areas, and \_\_\_\_\_ County is in Workforce Development Area (WDA) 9 with seven other counties; and

WHEREAS, the federal WIOA requires that each region create a consortium formed by the counties contained within each region and that each consortium establish certain operating procedures, duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the consortium is required to appoint and oversee a Workforce Development Board (which oversees job centers and employment and training programs, etc.) and be responsible for program planning and oversight, including financial oversight; and

WHEREAS, the last consortium agreement was approved by the counties in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is requiring a review/update of all governance documents in Workforce Development Area 9; and

WHEREAS, the attached agreement forms the Western Wisconsin Counties Consortium (WWCC) and contains the operating procedures, duties and responsibilities of the WWCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_ County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the county’s WWCC board appointee to sign the attached “Chief Elected Officials Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area.”

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## ORDINANCE

Initiated By:

Becky Nagel  
County Zoning Technician

Drafted By:

Michal J. Peterson,  
Asst. Corporation Counsel

Submitted By:

Land Conservation, Planning and Zoning Committee

Date Drafted:

February 5, 2026

### AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RECREATING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS AND NON-PLUMBING SANITARY SYSTEMS

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

**Section I:** That Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed in its entirety and recreated to read as follows:

### **CHAPTER 15 - PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (POWTS) ORDINANCE**

#### **15.01 – ADOPTION AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

(1) Pursuant to §59.70(5) & (1) Wis. Stats., the County Board hereby adopts this private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) ordinance.

(2) This chapter shall be subject to the provisions of Ch. 145 Wis. Stats., and all subsequent rules and regulations promulgated thereunder regarding sanitary systems including without limitation and incorporating by reference the State Plumbing Code and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapters SPS 381-387 and SPS 391 and Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code Chapters NR 113, 114, 116 and 140 and all amendments thereto.

**15.02 – PURPOSE.** This chapter is adopted to promote and protect the public health, safety, prosperity, and general welfare of the people and communities within the County. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the siting, location, design, construction, installation, alteration, inspection, use, and management of private onsite wastewater treatment systems and non-plumbing sanitation systems. These regulations are intended to ensure safe and healthful conditions; to protect the health of residents and transients; to prevent disease and nuisance; to provide for the timely repair or replacement of failing systems; and to protect groundwater and surface water resources.

**15.03- APPLICABILITY.** The requirements of this article shall apply to all areas of the county not served by a public sewer approved by the Department of Natural Resources.

**15.04- SEVERABILITY AND LIABILITY.** Should any section, clause, provision or portion of this ordinance be adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby. This ordinance shall

not create a liability on the part of or a cause of action against the County or any employee thereof for any private onsite wastewater treatment system which may not function as designed. There shall be no liability or warranty for any site which is approved or denied. The issuance of a sanitary permit and the final inspection of such a system does not warrant the system's function, nor is there a guarantee that the system is free of defects or that all aspects of the system comply to Wisconsin Statute or Administrative Code requirements.

**15.05 – INTERPRETATIONS.** The provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the County and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other power granted by the Wisconsin Statutes and related administrative codes.

**15.06 – DEFINITIONS.** The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

**BUILDING.** See the definition of the term “structure” in this section.

**COMPOSTING TOILET SYSTEM.** A method that collects, stores and converts by bacterial digestion nonliquid-carried human wastes or organic kitchen wastes, or both, into humus.

**COUNTY SANITARY PERMIT.** A permit issued by the Department for the reconnection or repair of a private sewage system or the installation of a non-plumbing sanitation system, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 59.70 and 145.04 and Chapters SPS 381-387 and SPS 391, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

**DEPARTMENT.** The Crawford County Sanitation & Zoning Department.

**DOMESTIC WASTEWATER.** The type of wastewater, not including stormwater, normally discharged from or similar to that discharged from plumbing fixtures, appliances and devices, including, but not limited to, sanitary, bath, laundry, dishwashing, garbage disposal and cleaning wastewater.

**FAILING PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM.** has the following meanings:

- (1) Those specified under Wis. Stats. § 145.01(4m)
  - (a) The discharge of sewage into surface water or groundwater.
  - (b) The introduction of sewage into zones of saturation that adversely affects the operation of a private on-site wastewater treatment system.
  - (c) The discharge of sewage to a drain tile or into zones of bedrock.
  - (d) The discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground.
  - (e) The failure to accept sewage discharges and back up of sewage into the structure served by the private on-site wastewater treatment system.
- (2) A holding tank which discharges sewage to the ground surface, including intentional discharges and discharges caused by neglect.
- (3) A POWTS system that has less than the minimum of in-situ soil between the infiltrative surface of the POWTS or privy and high groundwater, a limiting layer

that may adversely affect the operation of a POWTS system or bedrock pursuant to SPS 383.03(2)(b), Wisconsin Administrative Code.

**HUMAN HABITATION.** The act of occupying a structure as a dwelling or sleeping place, whether intermittently or as a principal residence, or act of occupying a structure as a place of employment or business.

**INCINERATING TOILET.** A self-contained device for the treatment of nonliquid carried wastes that deposits the wastes directly into a combustion chamber, reduces the solid portion to ash and evaporates the liquid portion.

**ISSUING AGENT.** The County office, department, committee, board, commission, position or employee assigned the duties of administering this POWTS ordinance by the County Board.

**MINOR REPAIRS.** A minor repair to a private onsite wastewater treatment system includes the replacement or repair of any of the following:

- (a) manhole covers;
- (b) manhole risers;
- (c) septic tank baffles;
- (d) effluent pumps and related controls or wiring;
- (e) other components as determined by the Department;

**NON-PLUMBING SANITARY SYSTEM.** Alternatives to water-carried waste plumbing fixtures and drain systems regulated by Ch. SPS 391, Wis. Admin. Code, including composting or incinerating toilets and privies.

**OCCUPANCY.** Pertains to, and is the purpose for which, a building is used or intended to be used. A change in occupancy is not intended to include a change of tenants or proprietors, but is intended to apply when the number of employees or occupants is increased

**OCCUPANCY, SEASONAL.** Pertains to the human habitation or occupancy of a structure for less than six months in any year and for periodic use such as a recreational cabin or cottage.

**OWNER.** The owner of the property served by a POWTS. In cases where a POWTS is located on a property with ownership different than the property which it serves, or in which multiple properties and/or structures are served by a single POWTS, the legal document which specifies the agreements of ownership and responsibility shall extend in application to this chapter.

**PLUMBER.** A person licensed by the state department of safety and professional services as a master plumber or master plumber-restricted services.

**PORABLE RESTROOM.** A self-contained portable unit that includes fixtures, incorporating holding tank facilities, designed to contain human excrement.

**PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (POWTS).** A sewage treatment and disposal system serving a single structure with a septic tank and soil absorption field located on the same parcel as the structure; an alternative sewage system approved by the

Department, including a substitute for the septic tank or soil absorption field, a holding tank, a system serving more than one structure or a system located on a different parcel than the structure. A POWTS may be owned by the property owner or by a special purpose district.

**PRIVY.** An enclosed non-portable toilet into which non-water carried human wastes are deposited.

**REBUILT OR REBUILDING.** The construction which takes place after a structure is demolished or damaged by fire, wind or other natural disaster.

**SANITARY PERMIT.** A county sanitary permit or a state sanitary permit, or both.

**SEPTIC TANK.** An anaerobic treatment tank.

**SERVICING.** Removing the liquid, scum, sludge, or other wastes from a private sewage system such as septic or holding tanks, dosing chambers, grease interceptors, seepage beds, seepage pits, seepage trenches, privies, or portable restrooms and properly disposing or recycling of the contents as provided per §NR 113.03(57), Wis. Admin. Code.

**STATE.** The state department of safety and professional services.

**STATE SANITARY PERMIT.** A permit issued by the department for the installation or modification of a private sewage system, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 145.135 and 145.19.

**STRUCTURE.** Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires a location in or on the premises, or any other attachment to something having a permanent location on the ground, which includes, but is not limited to, objects such as buildings, factories, sheds, cabins, mobile homes, gas or liquid storage tanks, bridges, culverts, decks, satellite dishes or swimming pools. Also included are items of personal property that may have been designed as transportable or as a vehicle, but stand in a seasonal or permanent location for storage or intermittent human habitation. Such incidental structures may include, but are not limited to, truck campers, travel trailers, park or model units, buses and motor homes.

**VAULT PRIVY.** An enclosed nonportable toilet into which nonwater-carried human wastes are deposited to a subsurface storage chamber that is watertight.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR.** A person appointed by the county zoning committee to administer and enforce this article.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **15.07 - COMPLIANCE.**

(1) All structures or premises in the county that are permanently or intermittently intended for human habitation or occupancy, which are not serviced by a public sewer, and for which water is supplied or wastewater is collected and conveyed, shall be served by a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) for the holding, treatment, and dispersal of sewage and wastewater, and such system shall comply with the provisions of this article.

(2) The private onsite wastewater treatment system or non-plumbing sanitation system for newly constructed structures or structures requiring a reconnection permit shall be approved and installed and may be inspected before the structure may be occupied.

## **15.08 – LIMITATIONS.**

(1) All domestic wastewater shall enter a private onsite wastewater treatment system unless otherwise exempted by the State or this ordinance.

(2) A non-plumbing sanitation system may be permitted only when the structure or premises served by the non-plumbing sanitation system is not provided with an indoor plumbing system. If plumbing is installed in the structure or running water is supplied to the structure an acceptable method of sewage disposal other than, or in addition to, a non- plumbing sanitation system must be provided (see §15.10 for other limitations).

(3) Vault privy. Only vaulted-type privies are allowed pursuant to this chapter, and require an approved, Crawford County non-plumbing sanitation system permit prior to placement or construction on a parcel. The pumping, transportation and disposal of the contents of a vault privy shall be in accordance with Ch. NR 113, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and shall be maintained pursuant to this chapter. Pit privies are not permitted in Crawford County.

(4) Any private onsite wastewater treatment system, or portion(s) thereof, installed within a floodplain shall comply with all applicable requirements of NR 116, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and the Floodplain Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances for Crawford County.

(5) Installation of a holding tank is prohibited if any other type of private onsite wastewater treatment system permitted by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, can be used and may only be allowed when SPS 383 determines the site is unsuitable for conventional systems such as in-ground, mound, at-grade, or pressure systems. A sanitary permit for the installation of a holding tank, or which designates a holding tank as a replacement system, shall not be issued unless a Soil and Site Evaluation determines that the property is unsuitable for conventional/in-ground soil absorption system, at-grade system, or mound system, except as provided in (a) (b) (c) or (d) below.

(a) A holding tank may be installed to serve a use with a design wastewater flow of less than or equal to 150 gallons per day. In addition to items required in section §15-12, an application for a sanitary permit to install a holding tank to serve a seasonal use one bedroom structure with less than or equal to 150 gallons per day shall include a written statement from the property owner, agreeing to install another type of system if any change of occupancy or use occurs which results in a design wastewater flow which exceeds 150 gallons per day.

(b) A temporary holding tank may be installed if a public sewer, approved by the Department of Natural Resources, will be installed to serve the property within 2 years of the date of sanitary permit issuance. In addition to items required in §15.13, an application for a sanitary permit to install a temporary holding tank shall include written statements from:

(1) The municipality or sanitary district, verifying the date that public sewer will be installed and available to serve the property;

(2) The Department of Natural Resources, verifying approval of the public sewer; and

(3) The property owner, agreeing to connect to public sewer when it becomes available and to abandon the temporary holding tank. If public sewer does not become available within 2 years of the date of sanitary permit issuance, the holding tank must be replaced with another type of system recognized by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(c) A temporary treatment/holding tank may be installed in cases of emergency due to inclement weather conditions, tank collapses, and other unforeseen circumstances. A sanitary permit application for the entire proposed system shall be submitted to the Department as required in §15.13, prior to installation of the temporary tank(s). All components of the system shall be completed as soon as conditions permit. Time limits may be established at the discretion of the Department.

(d) A holding tank may be installed to collect industrial, nondomestic, or high-strength wastewater only if conventional POWTS are not feasible or approved by DNR.

(6) When a failing private onsite wastewater treatment system is identified, it shall be brought into compliance with current code requirements, replaced with a code compliant system or its use discontinued within that period of time required by Department order. Unlawfully modified private onsite wastewater treatment systems, a private onsite wastewater treatment system that has sewage bypassing the system, or a holding tank which is discharging sewage into the ground, onto the ground's surface, or into surface waters may be ordered by the Department to be corrected or replaced with a code compliant system.

## **15.09 – ABANDONMENT OF PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS.**

(1) When public sewers approved by the Department of Natural Resources become available to the structure or premises served, the private onsite wastewater treatment system shall be disconnected within one year and a connection made to the public sewer with the following exception: Abandonment of the disconnected private onsite wastewater treatment system done in accordance with the provisions of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(2) The components of an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system that are not part of the approved sanitary permit for a replacement system shall be abandoned at the time of the installation of the replacement system by the plumber installing the system. The abandonment shall comply with SPS 383.33, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

## **15.10 – NON-PLUMBING SANITATION SYSTEMS.**

(1) A vault privy, composting toilet system, incinerating toilet, or portable restroom are allowed only when the building served by the non-plumbing system is not provided with plumbing and/or a code compliant soil absorption system or holding tank exists, and a valid sanitary permit to install such a system has been issued by the Crawford County Sanitation & Zoning Department. A building or structure that has internal piping or has been "roughed in" with piping shall be considered to have plumbing.

(2) Composting toilet system, incinerating toilet, or portable restroom shall conform to the standards set out in SPS 391.12 Wisconsin Administrative Code.

- (3) Location of vault privies shall not be erected within:
  - (a) Minimum Fifty feet of any well, or surface water;
  - (b) Minimum Ten feet of a door or window of any building;
  - (c) Minimum Ten feet from any road right-of-way;
  - (d) Minimum Twenty-five feet of any property line; and
  - (e) Meet the shoreland setback of Wis. Admin. Code NR115.
- (4) Vault requirements:
  - (a) Vaults used for privies shall be an approved sewage/treatment tank as listed in the most current department of safety and professional services product approval register.
  - (b) No privy shall be permitted that has a capacity of less than 200 gallons.
  - (c) Vault Privy shall conform to the standards set out in SPS 391.12 Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- (5) Permit, fee, and agreement:
  - (a) Prior to the installation of a non-plumbing sanitation system, a property owner shall obtain a county sanitary permit for the non-plumbing sanitation system and pay the applicable fee.
  - (b) Prior to the issuance of a sanitary permit, the property owner must sign a non-plumbing sanitary system agreement and have it recorded in the register of deeds' office.

## **PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS**

### **15.11 – SOIL AND SITE EVALUATION.**

- (1) Soil and site evaluations shall comply with SPS 383, SPS 385 and SPS 391, Wisconsin Administrative Code and this chapter.
- (2) The department shall attempt to inspect all soil tests performed in the county, dependent on schedules and weather.
- (3) All soil testers shall contact the department at least 48 hours prior to any requested inspections.
- (4) Soil test pits shall be constructed which allow adequate visual observation of the soil profile in place. A minimum of three soil pits shall be observed except where soil and site conditions are not uniform, more borings may be required. Sufficient suitable area shall be identified. Observation is best accomplished by the excavation of backhoe pits.
- (5) A certified soil tester may request department verification of a soil and site evaluation report before a complete sanitary permit application is submitted. An application for such verification shall include, on forms provided by the department, all information required in

section 15.13(1)(a)-(e), the original copy of the soil and site evaluation report and as many copies as are required by the department.

## **15.12 – SANITARY PERMITS.**

- (1) Every private onsite wastewater treatment system shall require a separate application and sanitary permit.
- (2) A sanitary permit shall be obtained by the property owner, his agent or contractor, in the name of the property owner, prior to the installation, establishment or construction of any structure which requires a private onsite wastewater treatment system or non-plumbing sanitation system. Any property owner, his agent or contractor, who starts construction prior to obtaining a sanitary permit is in violation and may be subject to the penalties provided in this ordinance. No person shall sell a septic tank or holding tank for installation as specified in this chapter, unless the purchaser holds a valid sanitary permit.
- (3) A sanitary permit shall be obtained by the property owner, his agent or contractor, before any private onsite wastewater treatment system or part thereof may be installed, replaced, repaired, reconnected or modified. A sanitary permit is not required for the addition of manhole risers or for minor repairs.
- (4) A County Sanitary Permit shall be obtained prior to constructing or installing a non-plumbing sanitation system.
- (5) If any part of a private onsite wastewater treatment system has failed or requires replacement or modification, the entire system shall be evaluated to determine if it is compliant with applicable codes prior to sanitary permit issuance. This shall include a soil and site evaluation for those components that utilize in situ soil for treatment or dispersal, unless a valid report is already on file with the Department. If any part of the system is found to be defective, the sanitary permit application shall include specifications for the repair, renovation, replacement or removal of that part.

## **15.13 – APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) A sanitary permit application shall include the following information which shall be furnished by the applicant on forms required by the State and/or the Department along with all applicable fees:
  - (a) Names and addresses of the applicant (owner of the site) and the plumber employed (when applicable).
  - (b) Legal description of the subject site and the parcel identification or parcel number.
  - (c) All lot dimensions.
  - (d) Driving directions to the site.
  - (e) Building use (single family, duplex, etc.).
  - (f) Soil and Site Evaluation report.
  - (g) System plans (see §15.14).
  - (h) Appropriate agreements, contracts, and a management plan for the proposed design describing monitoring, maintenance, and servicing agreements.

- (i) Verification that any existing private onsite wastewater treatment systems on the same parcel of land are not failing private onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- (j) Copies of any documents required in §15.13(3) and verification that they have been recorded.
- (k) Any other information required by the Department, including verification of compliance with §15.32(10) of this ordinance.

(2) When any official State action is required prior to the issuance of a sanitary permit, a copy of the official action shall accompany the application.

(3) The following documents must be recorded with the Crawford County Register of Deeds prior to sanitary permit issuance:

- (a) Maintenance agreements, notification of servicing requirements, or notification of system limitations, if recording is required by, SPS 383 Wisconsin Administrative Code, or §15.32 of this ordinance.
- (b) If a private on-site wastewater treatment system serves more than one structure under different ownership, a document identifying all parties that have ownership rights and are responsible for the operation and maintenance.
- (c) If a private onsite wastewater treatment system is owned by a party other than the owner of the parcel on which it is installed, a document identifying the owner of the system, the structures to be served by the system and the party responsible for operation and maintenance must be recorded.
- (d) If the design wastewater flow of a private onsite wastewater treatment system for a dwelling is not based upon the number of bedrooms within the dwelling, a deed restriction limiting occupancy to that used in the design must be recorded.

(4) The Department reserves the right to require Floodplain zoning verification prior to sanitary permit issuance. The Department may require elevations on plans to be tied to floodplain elevation datum.

(5) The Department reserves the right to refuse incomplete or incorrect permit applications or to delay permit issuance until corrected or completed applications are received.

**15.14 - PLANS.** System plans shall be submitted for approval to the Department or to the State in accordance with, SPS 383 Wisconsin Administrative Code. Plans shall comply with the requirements of, SPS 383 Wisconsin Administrative Code, and this ordinance.

- (1) Plans submitted to the Department shall include the original and as many copies as are required by the Department.
- (2) If plans are reviewed and approved by the State, at least one set of the plans submitted to the Department shall bear an State approval stamp or seal.
- (3) Plans submitted shall be clear, legible and permanent copies.
- (4) Plans submitted shall comply with, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and include the following:

- (a) The name of the property owner and the legal description of the site;
- (b) Estimated daily wastewater flow and design wastewater flow.
- (c) A detailed plot plan (site plan), dimensioned or drawn to scale, on paper no smaller than 8½ inches by 11 inches in size. The plot plan shall delineate the lot size and the location of all existing and proposed: private onsite wastewater treatment system components; building sewers; private interceptor main sewers; wells; water mains or water services; buildings; lot lines; swimming pools; navigable waters; and the benchmark established on the Soil and Site Evaluation Report. Adjoining properties shall be checked to insure that the horizontal setback parameters in, SPS 383.43, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are complied with. All separating distances and dimensions shall be clearly shown on the plot plan.
- (d) Details and configuration layouts depicting how the system is to be constructed.
- (e) Sufficient supporting information to determine whether the proposed design, installation and management of the proposed private onsite wastewater treatment system or modification to an existing system complies with this ordinance.

(5) Plans shall be signed or sealed as specified in, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(6) A copy of the approved plans shall be maintained at the construction site until the private onsite wastewater treatment system installation is completed and inspected. The plans shall be made available to the Department or the State upon request.

(7) A modification to the design of a private onsite wastewater treatment system which has been previously approved shall be submitted to the Department or the State as specified in, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Plan revisions must be approved prior to system installation. A fee may be charged when submitting revised plans according to §15.23.

### **15.15 – PERMIT CARDS.**

(1) The permit card issued by the Zoning Administrator to the property owner or his agent shall serve as the sanitary permit.

(2) The permit card shall contain all the information required by §145.19, Wisconsin Statutes.

(3) The permit card shall be displayed at the site in such a manner that it will be visible from a road abutting the lot during all construction phases.

(4) The permit card may not be removed until the private onsite wastewater treatment system has been installed and inspected by the Zoning Administrator.

(5) Failure to display the permit card shall be considered a violation of this section and may subject the property owner, his agent or contractor, to penalty provisions of this ordinance.

### **15.16 – PERMIT EXPIRATION.**

(1) A sanitary permit for a private onsite wastewater treatment system or non-plumbing sanitation system which has not been installed, replaced, repaired, modified or reconnected and approved shall expire two years after the date of issuance unless renewed. Permits may be renewed by the property owner, his agent or plumber, prior to the expiration date of the original permit.

(2) Prior to the expiration of the sanitary permit, the licensed plumber shall submit the applicable form for the renewal along with the appropriate fee. A new permit card shall be issued when the permit is renewed.

(3) The renewal shall be based on Wisconsin Administrative Code, Statute, and ordinance requirements in force at the time of renewal. Changed Wisconsin Administrative Code, Statute, or ordinance may impede renewal and a new permit may be required.

(4) A sanitary permit which has been renewed shall expire two years from the date of renewal.

(5) A new sanitary permit shall be obtained by the owner or his agent prior to beginning construction if a sanitary permit has expired.

#### **15.17 – CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.**

(1) Change of ownership of a property for which a valid sanitary permit exists shall be subject to the following:

- (a) The property owner or plumber shall submit the applicable form to the Department with the change of owner section completed and signed along with the applicable fee.
- (b) Change of ownership shall not affect the expiration date or renewal requirements.

#### **15.18 – CHANGE OF PLUMBERS.**

(1) When an owner wishes to change plumbers, it will be necessary for the owner to submit the applicable form to the Department with the change of plumber section completed and signed by the new plumber along with the applicable fee.

(2) The change of plumbers shall be approved by the department prior to the installation of the private onsite wastewater treatment system.

(3) Sanitary permits for systems requiring State plan approval shall not be approved by the Department unless the plan bears the stamp of an architect, engineer, or plumbing designer, or a State level approval is obtained by the new plumber.

**15.19 – PERMIT DENIAL.** When applicable provisions of Wisconsin Statutes, Wisconsin Administrative Code or this Ordinance have not been complied with when applying for a sanitary permit, the permit shall be denied. Written notice of the right to appeal along with the procedures for the appeal shall be given to the plumber pursuant to SPS 383.21(3)(d)2.b Reasons for the denial shall be forwarded to the plumber, landowner and when appropriate, the Corporation Counsel.

#### **15.20 – RECONNECTION.**

- (1) A county sanitary permit for a reconnection of an existing system shall be obtained prior to:
  - (a) Construction of a structure to be connected to an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system;
  - (b) Disconnection of a structure from an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system and connection of another structure to the system except as permitted in §15.20(4); or
  - (c) Rebuilding a structure that is reconnected to a private onsite wastewater treatment system.
  - (d) A modification of or addition to an existing building which includes a new building sewer and/or new connection to an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system.
- (2) Prior to issuing a reconnection sanitary permit, the existing private onsite wastewater treatment system shall be examined to:
  - (a) Determine if it is functioning properly or whether it is a failing system.
  - (b) Determine if it will be capable of handling the proposed wastewater flow and contaminant load from the building to be served.
  - (c) Determine that all minimum setback requirements of, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code will be maintained.
- (3) Application for a County reconnection permit shall include the following:
  - (a) All items in §15.13(1)(a - e) and §15.13(1)(i-k);
  - (b) An Existing POWTS Evaluation Report, as specified in §15.22.
  - (c) Complete plans, as specified in §15.14.
  - (d) If required, a updated holding tank agreement which meets the requirements of this ordinance for reconnections to existing holding tanks.
  - (e) If required, a copy of an affidavit which has been recorded in the Register of Deeds office.
- (4) Replacing a structure with a new or different structure within two years of the date of permit issuance will only require a statement that the system has not been altered, a statement that a modification in wastewater flow or contaminant load will not occur, and a plot plan that documents all setbacks between the structure and system components.
- (5) All systems shall be inspected at the time of reconnection at the discretion of the Department, prior to backfilling, to insure that proper materials and methods are being used.
- (6) Reconnection to an undersized system is not permitted.

**15.21 - CONSTRUCTION AFFECTING WASTEWATER FLOW OR CONTAMINATION LOAD.** Prior to commencing the construction of an addition to or modification of a structure which will affect the wastewater flow and/or contaminant load to an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system, the owner(s) of the property shall:

- (1) Possess a sanitary permit to construct a new private onsite wastewater treatment system or modify an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system to accommodate the modification of wastewater flow or contaminant load; or
- (2) Provide the following to the Department:
  - (a) Documentation that a private onsite wastewater treatment system of adequate capability and capacity to accommodate the wastewater flow and contaminant load already exists to serve the structure, as specified in SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
  - (b) Documentation showing that the location of the proposed structure conforms to the applicable setback distances to all the existing private onsite wastewater treatment system components; and,
  - (c) An Existing POWTS Evaluation Report, as specified in §15.22.
- (3) If a previously permitted existing POWTS is known to be incorrectly sized by the existing or proposed wastewater load, the continued use of the existing POWTS may be allowed upon completion of an affidavit limiting use of the structure based upon a per capita occupancy as per SPS 383.43(3). When replacement is required the system shall be sized based on the number of bedrooms.
- (4) Any installation, addition or modification of a system must be completed and accepted before the addition or modified area of the structure may be occupied.
- (5) Prior to commencing construction of any structure or addition to a structure on a site where there exists a private onsite wastewater treatment system the owner or his agent shall determine that the proposed structure conforms with applicable setback limitations of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Documentation shall be submitted as required in, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

## **15.22 – EXISTING POWTS EVALUATION REPORTS.**

- (1) When an evaluation of an existing POWTS is required by this ordinance, an Existing POWTS Evaluation Report shall be completed and submitted to the Department. Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports must be on forms provided by the Department.

Each Evaluation Report shall include all of the following:

- (a) A Soil and Site Evaluation Report verifying that the vertical separation distance between the Infiltrative surface of the existing treatment or dispersal component and estimated high groundwater and/or bedrock along with identifying a replacement area that complies with SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Submittal of a Soil and Site Evaluation Report will not be required if:
  - (1) The existing POWTS is a code compliant holding tank;
  - (2) An adequate Soil and Site Evaluation Report is on file which was submitted and approved by the Department after July 1, 1994. The Department may accept Soil and Site Evaluation Reports on a case by case basis.
- (b) A report provided by a plumber, certified septage servicing operator, certified POWTS inspector or other person(s) authorized to do so by SPS 383, Wisconsin

Administrative Code, relative to the condition, capacities, and code compliance of any existing treatment or holding tanks;

- (c) A report provided by a plumber, certified POWTS inspector, or other person(s) authorized to do so by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, relative to the condition, capacities, and code compliance of all other system components;
- (d) A plot plan prepared by a plumber, certified soil tester, certified POWTS inspector, or other person(s) authorized to do so by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, including information specified in §15.14(4)(c), unless an accurate plot plan is on file with the Department;
- (e) An evaluation of the use and wastewater flow of the structure(s) served relative to the capacity of the existing POWTS.
- (f) Verification that all domestic wastewater from the structure discharges into the POWTS and that no outfall pipe(s) or connection(s) to drain tile exist.

(2) Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports must be signed by the licensed or certified person(s) performing the evaluation(s).

(3) Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports must be submitted to the Department within thirty (30) days of the evaluation.

#### **15.23- FEES.**

(1) The schedule of fees for all types of sanitary permits and related services shall be set by a motion of the Land Conservation, Planning & Zoning Committee & adjusted from time to time in the same manner. The schedule of fees shall be kept in the office of the issuing agent and provided upon request.

(2) After the sanitary permit has been issued, the fees may not be refunded.

(3) Penalty fees will be charged for all after-the-fact permit applications. Fees shall be multiplied according to the schedule of fees for work commenced prior to permit issuance.

#### **INSPECTIONS**

#### **15.24- INSPECTION; GENERAL.**

(1) Notice for final inspection shall be given to the Department for all private onsite wastewater treatment systems installed, replaced, repaired, modified or reconnected. Unless otherwise noted, notification for final inspection shall be given in accordance with the requirements of Wis. Admin. Code SPS 383.

(2) These private onsite wastewater treatment systems shall be inspected by the Department for compliance with, SPS 382, SPS 383 and SPS 384 Wisconsin Administrative Code, other appropriate Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes and this ordinance.

(3) The installing plumber whose name appears on the sanitary permit shall allow the Department to make a field inspection of the POWTS installation, modification or reconnection after construction, but before backfilling, no later than the end of the next work day after which such work was completed on the system and the Department was notified, excluding Saturdays,

Sundays and holidays,. The installing plumber will be held in violation of this section when any POWTS is backfilled and covered before it has been inspected and approved by the Department, unless the inspection requirements of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are not met by the County.

(4) The entire system shall be left completely open until it has been inspected and accepted, unless the requirements of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are not met by the Department.

(5) When a private onsite wastewater treatment system is ready for inspection, the plumber in charge shall make arrangements to enable the inspector to inspect all parts of the system. The plumber shall provide the proper apparatus, equipment and necessary assistance to make a proper inspection.

(6) Private onsite wastewater treatment systems may be inspected periodically, after the initial installation inspection(s) and/or after the system is operative, as deemed necessary by the Zoning Administrator.

#### **15.25- INSPECTIONS; SITE CONSTRUCTED HOLDING TANKS.**

(1) All site constructed holding tanks shall be inspected after the floor is poured and the keyway and water stop are installed or after the forms for the tank walls have been set but in all instances before any concrete for the walls has been poured.

(2) Concrete walls may be poured only after it has been determined that the tank, as formed, complies with the approved plans.

(3) This inspection shall not eliminate the need for an inspection after the installation has been completed.

#### **15.26- INSPECTIONS; MOUNDS & AT-GRADE SYSTEMS.**

(1) The installing plumber whose name appears on the sanitary permit shall allow the Department to make a field inspection of the POWTS installation, modification or reconnection after construction, but before backfilling, no later than the end of the next work day after which such work was completed on the system and the Department was notified, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays,. The installing plumber will be held in violation of this section when any POWTS is backfilled and covered before it has been inspected and approved by the Department, unless the inspection requirements of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are not met by the County..

(2) Systems may be inspected at the time the ground surface is plowed, before distribution pipes have been placed in the cell, at the time the distribution piping installation has been completed before backfilling and after all work has been completed, at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator.

#### **15.27- TESTING**

(1) If testing of new systems or new system components is required by SPS 382, 383 or 384, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or as a condition of plan approval, notice shall be given to the

Department as specified in §15.24(3), so that the Department may make an inspection during the test.

(2) The Department may verify that required testing has been completed, by:

- (a) Performing an inspection during the test,
- (b) Requiring written verification from the responsible person, or
- (c) Both a and b.

## **SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

### **15.28- MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT.**

(1) All private onsite wastewater treatment systems shall be managed and maintained in accordance with SPS 383, 384 and 391, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and this ordinance.

(2) The property owner shall report to the Department each inspection, maintenance or servicing event, in accordance with SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and this ordinance.

(3) The property owner shall submit a copy of an appropriate maintenance agreement and/or servicing contract to the Department prior to sanitary permit issuance.

(4) The property owner shall submit a new or revised servicing contract to the Department whenever there is a change to such document(s).

### **15.29- POWTS MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.**

(1) All new and existing septic tanks shall be inspected and pumped within three years of the date of installation and at least once every three years thereafter, unless upon inspection the tank is found to have less than 1/3 of the volume occupied by sludge and scum pursuant SPS 383.54.

(2) PUMPING AND DISPOSAL. The pumping and the disposal of the septage shall be done by a certified septage servicing operator in accordance with NR 113, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(3) Visual inspection of a private onsite wastewater treatment system shall be conducted by persons specified in SPS 383.54 to determine the condition of the tank and whether wastewater or effluent from the POWTS is ponding on the ground surface.

(4) REPORTS. The property owner or owner's agent of a private onsite wastewater treatment system shall furnish the Department with a copy of the inspection report verifying the condition of the tank, whether wastewater or effluent from the POWTS is discharging to or ponding on the ground surface and the date of pumping within 30 calendar days of the date of inspection and/or pumping. Reports shall include all information required in SPS 383.55, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and signed by the person(s) inspecting and pumping the private onsite wastewater treatment system. Other maintenance or management reports required by SPS 383 or 384, Wisconsin Administrative Code, shall be included with this report.

(5) **POSTPONEMENT.** Circumstances, such as inclement weather, road weight restrictions and site limitations, may necessitate a delay in the maintenance until conditions permit at the discretion of the county.

### **15.30- HOLDING TANK AGREEMENT.**

(1) The proposed owner of the holding tank shall enter into a Holding Tank Agreement with Crawford County before a sanitary permit is issued. The holding tank agreement shall be signed on a form provided by the Zoning Administrator, who shall sign the agreement on behalf of the county. The agreement shall require the applicant to conform to state regulations regarding the maintenance and pumping of the holding tank. If the tank is not maintained or pumped in conformance with state regulations, the Zoning Office shall order it to be maintained or pumped by a certified septic servicing operator, at county expense. The county shall then invoice the property owner for all such costs incurred. If the invoice is not paid within 30 days, the county may place the amount on the tax roll as a special assessment pursuant to Wis. Stat. 145.20(4) against the property in question. This holding Tank Agreement shall be filed with the Register of Deeds office and shall be recorded in a manner which will permit the existence of the agreement to be determined by reference to the property where the holding tank is installed.

(2) The owner or agent shall submit a copy of the Holding Tank Agreement when plans are submitted to the Department for review.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

**15.31- ADMINISTRATION.** The Zoning Administrator shall be responsible for the administration of this ordinance. The Zoning Administrator may delegate his responsibilities to personnel employed by the Department.

**15.32- POWERS AND DUTIES.** In the administration of this ordinance, the Zoning Administrator shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Delegate duties to and supervise clerical staff and other employees to assure full and complete compliance with this ordinance and related Wisconsin Statutes and the Administrative Codes.

(2) Advise applicants concerning the provisions of this ordinance and assist them in preparing permit applications.

(3) Review and approve plans for private onsite wastewater treatment systems for one and two family residences or as approved through agent status by the State.

(4) Issue sanitary permits and inspect properties for compliance with this ordinance and related Wisconsin Statutes and the Administrative Code.

(5) Keep records of all sanitary permits issued, inspections made, work approved, and other official actions.

(6) Report violations of this article to the corporation counsel and/or district attorney. Issue citations or initiate other legal action through corporation counsel or district attorney.

(7) Have access to any premises for the purpose of performing official duties between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. or at other times set by mutual agreement between the property owner or his agent and the Zoning Administrator or upon issuance of a special inspection warrant in accordance with §66.122, Wisconsin Statutes. Application for a sanitary permit is considered for the purposes of this ordinance as the owner's consent to enter the premises.

(8) Upon reasonable cause or question as to proper compliance, revoke or suspend any sanitary permit and issue cease and desist orders requiring the cessation of any construction, alteration or use of a building which is in violation of the provisions of this ordinance, until compliance with this ordinance or applicable Wisconsin Statutes and the Administrative Code is obtained.

(9) Issue and enforce orders to plumbers, certified septic servicing operators, property owners their agents or contractors or the responsible party, to assure proper compliance with all provisions of this ordinance or delegate such authority to the County Health Department.

(10) Withhold permits or approvals if the application or proposed private onsite wastewater treatment system does not comply with the requirements of the statutes, administrative code, or this ordinance governing private onsite wastewater treatment systems. A request for a waiver of the provisions of this article may be made, to grant or deny a permit or approval on the merits of the application, to the corporation counsel and the zoning committee.

(11) Perform other duties regarding private onsite wastewater treatment systems as considered appropriate by the County or the State.

(12) Review and approve Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports for compliance with this ordinance and administrative codes.

**15.33- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.** Any person who alleges that there is an error in any order, requirement or decision made in the enforcement of this ordinance may appeal to the Board of Adjustment as provided in Ch. 16 (Shoreland Protection Ordinance) of the General Code. Any appeal shall be made on forms furnished by the Department within 30 days of the date of that administrative action. Other substantiating evidence will be accepted.

#### **15.34- VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.**

(1) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this ordinance, or any order of the Department issued in accordance with this ordinance, or resists enforcement, shall be subject to a penalty as provided in §25.04 of the General Code.

(2) Any construction which is in violation of this ordinance shall cease upon written orders from the Zoning Administrator or the placement of a notification of violation at the site.

(3) All construction shall remain stopped until the order is released by the Zoning Administrator.

(4) Violations of this ordinance shall be prosecuted by the Corporation Counsel or District Attorney as requested by the Zoning Administrator. ”

**Section II:** This Ordinance shall become effective in upon its passage and publication as required by law.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of Febraury, 2026.

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**Gary Koch**, Chairman

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**Kate Krachey**

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**Mary Kuhn**

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**Chad Sime**

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**Owen DuCharme**

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2026

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**Tom Cornford**  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

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**Roberta A. Fisher**  
County Clerk

Emergency Fire Wardens  
Crawford County  
2026

Below is a list of businesses/individuals who we recommend to serve as Emergency Fire Wardens in Crawford County.

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
Greener's Corners	162 Main St.	Seneca	WI	54654
The Marketplace	180 Misty Valley Ave	Gays Mills	WI	54631
Tractor Supply Co.	20 Riverside Square, Suite 1	Prairie du Chien	WI	53821

By: Eric Zenz  
Eric Zenz, SW District Forestry Leader

Date: 1/5/2026

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Crawford County Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_