

KEWAUNEE COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY DAVINA BONNESS, COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) locally addresses water quality, soil erosion & runoff control, shoreland and floodplain zoning, sanitary compliance, manure and nutrient management and the overall preservation of our land and water resources. LWCD duties are outlined under our Department of Agricultural Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) approved **Land and Water Resource Management Plan**, that lays out the local strategy for protecting surface and groundwater quality through implementation of the agricultural nonpoint source pollution control performance standards and prohibitions.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

1. Agricultural Waste & Process Wastewater Irrigation (Chapter 37)
2. Animal Waste Storage (Chapter 18)
3. Complaints (Spills, Erosion, Manure, ect.)
4. Conservation Planning
5. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
6. Depth Bedrock Mapping
7. Discovery Farms (samples)
8. Farmland Preservation Program
9. Floodplain Zoning (Chapter 19)
10. Hauling Records
11. House Numbers
12. Invasive Species
13. Manure Management
14. Manure trainings
15. Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation (Chapter 17)
16. NR151 State Agricultural Performance Standards (Chapter 39)
17. Nutrient Management
18. Nutrient Management Farmer Education
19. Public Health & Groundwater Protection Ordinance (Chapter 30)
20. Sanitary Ordinance (Chapter 15)
21. Shoreland Zoning (Chapter 16)
22. Soil Water Resource Management (SWRM)
23. State Task Force (Ordinance Development)
24. Technical Assistance
25. Total Maximum Daily Load DNR Project
26. Tree / Shrub Program
27. TRM/NOD grants
28. Watershed Planning (9 Key Element Plans)
29. Well Testing / Groundwater Education
30. Wildlife Damage

STAFF

County Conservationist / Department Head - Davina Bonness
Conservationist – Sanitary/Zoning Specialist - Paul Fredrich
Conservation Specialist III - Travis Engels
Conservation Specialist I - Samantha Yonan
Conservation Associate - Theresa Marcusen

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Animal Waste Storage Facility (Chapter 18)

LWCD staff regulates and permits the location, construction, installation, alteration, design and use of animal waste storage facilities including manure storages, transfer lines, digesters, sand settling lanes, solid stacking pads, ect. Staff also review all plans that are submitting by other engineering firms for ordinance compliance.

Throughout Kewaunee County, LWCD currently tracks/maps (on GIS and on Excel)

- 218 “In Use or Active” permitted facilities
- 46 “Inactive or Not Currently Used” permitted facilities
- 71 “Abandoned” waste facilities
- **In 2024, our office received 10 new applications & plans and issued 10 permits**

Animal Waste Storage Permits		
Year	# Permits	Amount \$
2020	10	\$12,100
2021	5	\$3,600
2022	17	\$7,000
2023	12	\$6,000
2024	10	\$5,000
2025 (thru 7/1)	4	\$6,000
Totals:	58	\$39,700.00

Public Health & Groundwater Protection Ordinance (Chapter 30)

LWCD implements this ordinance by monitoring waste spreading/stacking during January 1st - April 15th (prohibited on less than 20 feet to bedrock) as well as assisting landowners/operators with appropriate stacking locations and/or grants for manure storages.

- **In 2024, there were no citations. However, staff conducted field visits for 2 complaints of manure spreading. Both manure applications were on fields with greater than 20 feet to bedrock and therefore, were in compliance.**

Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation (Chapter 17)

In 2024, LWCD continues to regulate the reclamation of **20 non-metallic mining sites including 4 inactive sites** within Kewaunee County. Annual activities/duties perform include: site visits to review and document reclamation activities, sending out annual permits, collecting annual fees, reviewing reclamation plans for compliance and reviewing financial assurance.

Discovery Farms Sample Collection

In partnership with Discovery Farms, to seek cropping systems that reduce surface runoff of soil and nutrients, after every event (including rain, melting snow, ect) that is capable of producing runoff, LWCD staff goes onsite to grab water samples from two different locations in Kewaunee County. Our office then ships the samples to the lab for analysis. Our office also mows and maintains the grass around these sampling devices.



Technical Assistance

LWCD staff provides technical assistance following Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) performance standards to conserve and protect Kewaunee County's natural resources. Annual technical service can include assistance for manure and/or farm waste management, erosion control, critical area stabilization, grassed waterways, control of invasive species, and ground & surface water quality management. They are often provided through the grants listed below.

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and Notice of Discharge (NOD) grants

LWCD annually writes and submits Department of Natural Resource (DNR) grants for eligible landowners in Kewaunee County who need manure management and storage, barnyards, ect.

In 2023 – 2024, our office submitted and received two (2) TRM and one (1) (NOD) grants, which include:

- Site visits (often with DNR) to document issues/concerns and any direct runoff from facilities
- Preparing detailed cost share estimates & submitting DNR grant applications,
- Performing soil borings & surveys,
- Technical design of projects,
- Monitoring installation,
- Certifying finished projects meet standards, and
- Submitting contract reimbursements.

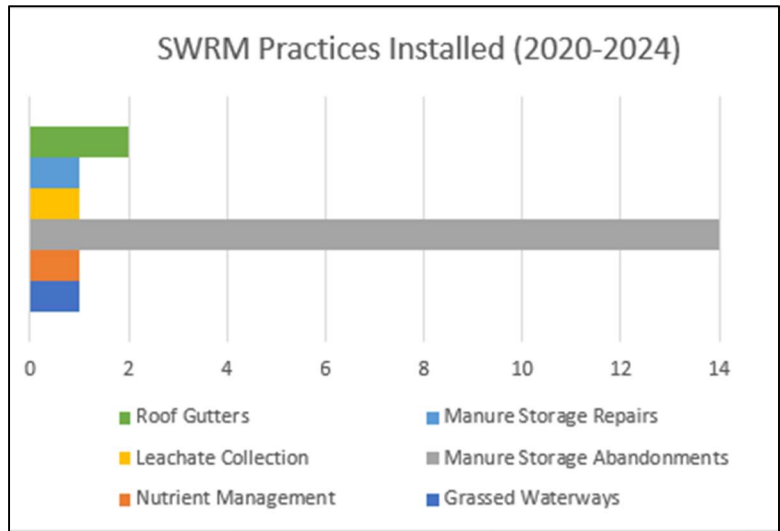
These grants are large, often up to \$225,000 each, and take up a substantial amount of time from start to finish.

Soil and Water Resource Management Program (SWRM)

LWCD annually submits DATCP SWRM grants and allocates money via contracts (up to 70% of cost) to landowners based on findings from NR 151 walkovers or interest. LWCD staff survey, design and monitor installation of these practices, as well as, write contracts and submit reimbursements.

In the past 5 years (2020 - 2024), our office installed 20 projects and paid out \$225,585.00 in grant dollars. Fourteen of the 20 projects included manure storage abandonments. Abandonments are done on older pits that often do not meet the current state standards and can no longer be used to store manure or by landowners who no longer have animals onsite.

- In 2024, three projects were installed, of which all three were manure storage abandonments.



In addition, to carry out to the duties in our Land & Water Resource Management plan, our office applies and receives money for staffing each year.

- In 2024, Kewaunee County received \$182,762 for staffing reimbursements from DATCP.

SWRM Program		
Year	Grant Awards to Landowners	Total Projects Installed
2020	\$99,940.45	8
2021	\$4,797.30	3
2022	\$45,686.15	2
2023	\$46,292.75	4
2024	\$32,868.82	3
Totals:	\$229,585.47	20

Staffing Grant from DATCP	
Year	Amount \$
2014	\$117,788
2015	\$118,328
2016	\$106,496
2017	\$124,565
2018	\$131,172
2019	\$133,201
2020	\$149,985
2021	\$157,771
2022	\$184,235
2023	\$190,786
2024	\$182,762
2025	
Totals:	\$1,597,089.00

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) & NR151 State Agricultural Performance Standards (Chapter 39)

LWCD develops, monitors, and/or revises Soil and Water Conservation Plans and reviews and monitors Nutrient Management plans for landowners participating in the WI Farmland Preservation Program (FPP).

LWCD staff oversee approximately 700 conservation plans in Kewaunee County.

- In 2024, our office wrote 7 new plans for new FPP participants and updated approximately 25.

LWCD staff also issues FPP tax credit certification numbers and verifies compliance for taxes annually to the Department of Revenue.

- In 2024, Kewaunee County had 730 FPP participants.

Conservation Plans	
Year	Total # Plans
2020	16
2021	19
2022	4
2023	15
2024	7
Totals:	61

Staff perform onsite walkovers on the livestock facilities and agricultural cropland to identify compliance with Wisconsin’s NR151 Standards and Prohibitions and FPP every four years. Walkover findings for both programs (NR151 and FPP) are documented and entered into a comprehensive excel database used to track compliance by landowner and tax parcel.

- Landowners in **full compliance** receive a full compliance letter and are assigned a Certificate of Compliance Number, which are provided to DATCP so landowners can receive their FPP tax credit.
- Landowners who are **not in full compliance** are provided either a schedule of compliance or notice of non-compliance (NONC) depending on the findings, as well as, depending on funding sources and applicability, offers of cost-sharing.

NR151 monthly updates are provided at the LCC meetings to discuss findings. Commonly noticed issues in cropland fields are farming too close to stream corridors, eroding grassed waterways, un-vegetated concentrated flow channels, and sheet/wind erosion. Manure management concerns noticed include direct runoff from feedlots and stored manure into waters of the state, process wastewater or leachate discharge, unlimited access of livestock to waters of the state, overflowing manure storages, and unconfined manure in WQMAs. These prohibitions reduce soil quality, soil health and can impact our groundwater and surface water resources.

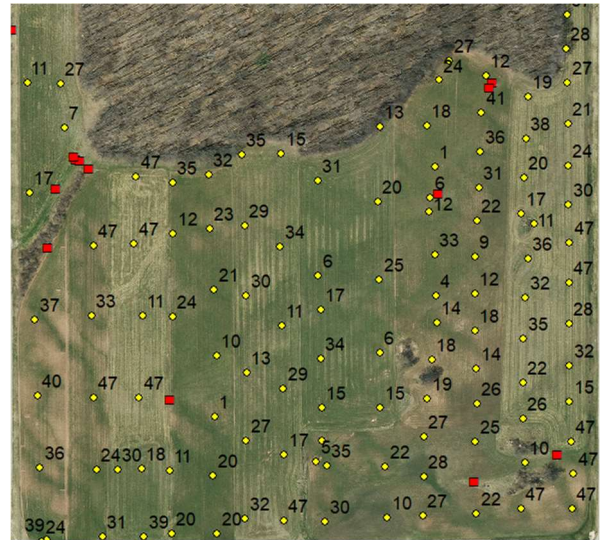
Walkovers began in 2004, but Kewaunee County started to charge a walkover fee in 2017, so I provided those statistics below. Our office started to document acres walked in 2019.

- In 2024, a total of 126 walkovers were conducted representing approximately 19,000 acres.

NR 151 WALKOVERS		Goal = 100% with NR151			
Year	Amount Paid \$	Total Inspections	Full Compliance	Compliance Schedules	Acres
2017	\$46,852.00	183	110	73	
2018	\$47,360.00	167	111	56	
2019	\$25,342.00	114	77	37	13302
2020	\$35,278.00	120	107	13	13920
2021	\$48,086.00	87	71	16	13148
2022	\$44,979.00	185	151	34	24721
2023	\$27,440.00	94	75	19	12823
2024	\$36,726.96	126	95	31	19000
Totals:	\$312,063.96				

As staff conduct NR151 walkovers, crop advisors, landowners and/or operators often attend to verify depth of bedrock to identify the 0-2' layer to bedrock and to identify karst features on the landscape. All karst features are documented and entered into GIS and also provided to DATCP to incorporate them into their SNAP plus database that crop advisors use to create nutrient management plans.

- Since 2019, over 3000 karst features (bedrock at surface, fracture traces, sinkholes) have been GPS and added into our GIS database as well as DATCP's online mapping database (red squares).
- 1000 acres have been probed (by hand – by our staff) documenting over 5,000 probe points (yellow dots – showing depth to bedrock)



Manure Spills, Complaints, Hauling Audits & Citations

LWCD staff respond to approximately 15-20 complaints a year. When responding to manure complaints, our staff will conduct hauling audits to document onsite activities (complaint / or non-compliant). Citations can be given when: manure/waste enters waters of the state, spreading through waterways, spreading within designated state setbacks to wells, karst features, waters of the state, ect. Citations are processed through Corp Counsel and Kewaunee County Courts.

LWCD staff also respond to manure spills to assist in clean-up efforts. Staff often know where karst features, waterways, culvert, ect – to block to minimize any runoff. Staff also document any impacts to waters of the state, which could result in a citation under Chapter 39.

- In 2024, four of the six spills were due to tanker rollovers and/or hose connection failures or breakage.

Manure Spills	
Year	Number
2020	13
2021	4
2022	13
2023	7
2024	6
Totals:	43

Well Testing Program & Groundwater Education

LWCD offers an annual (voluntary) well testing program to Kewaunee County landowners through the UW-Stevens Point Water & Environmental Analysis Lab along with an educational seminar. In 2024, our office also started to partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for nitrates. LWCD maps all results and also partners with other state agencies on groundwater testing grants.

Kewaunee County Testing Date	Total Wells Tested	Coliform Bacteria Positive		E-Coli Positive		Elevated Nitrates (2.1 - 9.9ppm)		Nitrates (10ppm or greater) (Counted twice if also had CB)		TOTAL UNSAFE Bacteria Positive AND/OR Nitrates > 10ppm	
		(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)	(Number)	(Percent)
August 9, 2004 ****	39	15	38.5%	2	5.1%	4	10.3%	6	15.4%	18	46.2%
March 29, 2005	67	9	13.4%	1	1.5%	15	22.4%	8	11.9%	16	23.9%
November 8, 2005	54	13	24.1%	4	7.4%	10	18.5%	7	13.0%	15	27.8%
March 28, 2006	47	7	14.9%	0	0.0%	9	19.1%	10	21.3%	12	25.5%
March 19, 2007	56	12	21.4%	3	5.4%	9	16.1%	9	16.1%	17	30.4%
October 27, 2008	23	3	13.0%	0	0.0%	2	8.7%	2	8.7%	5	21.7%
March 9, 2009	18	2	11.1%	0	0.0%	4	22.2%	1	5.6%	3	16.7%
March 29, 2010	31	2	6.5%	0	0.0%	6	19.4%	2	6.5%	4	12.9%
March 28, 2011	89	17	19.1%	2	2.2%	15	16.9%	19	21.3%	25	28.1%
November 14, 2011	47	15	31.9%	2	4.3%	6	12.8%	7	14.9%	19	40.4%
May 7, 2012	100	16	16.0%	6	6.0%	7	7.0%	16	16.0%	30	30.0%
March 18, 2013	58	8	13.8%	1	1.7%	14	24.1%	7	12.1%	12	20.7%
April 28, 2014	145	20	13.8%	0	0.0%	31	21.4%	17	11.7%	31	21.4%
June 8, 2015	121	19	15.7%	1	0.8%	20	16.5%	9	7.4%	27	22.3%
November 2015 (DNR Study)	323	86	26.6%	5	1.5%	109	33.7%	37	11.5%	110	34.1%
June 6, 2016	129	20	15.5%	0	0.0%	18	14.0%	15	11.6%	33	25.6%
July/August 2016 (DNR Study)	400	87	21.8%	10	2.5%	109	27.3%	45	11.3%	124	31.0%
May 1, 2017	91	10	11.0%	0	0.0%	17	18.7%	9	9.9%	18	19.8%
March 1, 2018	90	8	8.9%	0	0.0%	16	17.8%	6	6.7%	11	12.2%
October 21, 2019	99	21	21.2%	2	2.0%	16	16.2%	9	9.1%	28	28.3%
November 9, 2020	39	7	17.9%	1	2.6%	6	15.4%	3	7.7%	9	23.1%
July 12, 2021	298	68	22.8%	8	2.7%	77	25.8%	28	9.4%	89	29.9%
November 1, 2021	296	68	23.0%	6	2.0%	82	27.7%	22	7.4%	80	27.0%
July 5, 2022	274	42	15.3%	4	1.5%	77	28.1%	30	10.9%	70	25.5%
October 24, 2022	317	54	17.0%	2	0.6%	96	30.3%	42	13.2%	87	27.4%
July 10, 2023	289	42	14.5%	4	1.38%	70	24.2%	41	14.2%	76	26.3%
October 16, 2023	276	48	17.4%	1	0.36%	74	26.8%	29	10.5%	74	26.8%
May 13, 2024	105	11	10.5%	1	0.95%	33	31.4%	11	10.5%	17	16.2%
October 21, 2024	192	29	15.1%	0	0.00%	66	34.4%	22	11.5%	46	24.0%

- November 2025 & July/August 2026 – Borchardt et al (DNR funded randomized sampling event)
- July & November 2021 – WI Coastal Management Grant (*targeted wells in Silurian Dolomite less than 20' to bedrock)
- July & October 2022 -- WI Coastal Management Grant (*targeted wells in Silurian Dolomite less than 20')
- July & October 2023 – *Targeted wells located in/around the Village of Casco
- 2024 – one sampling event with 192 wells.

Nutrient Management (590 Standard)

Annual plans are required to be submitted by April 15th of the calendar year. Our office tracks and maintains an accurate GIS database of all land under Nutrient Management including mapping: field name and boundaries, operators, manure agreements, phosphorus soil test, phosphorus index, current crops, soil loss values, tillage including any cover crops, manure applications and sub-watershed basins. Staff reviews maps for missing or improperly buffered karst features, missing karst features, fields under 2 feet to bedrock that cannot be spread on, wells, direct conduits to ground and surface water and waterways.

To document Nutrient Management program compliance, fields are cross reference by parcel numbers in our NR151/FPP excel database by landowner, since landowners are the ones receiving the tax credit. Lastly to track NMP acres, operators including total acres and current animal numbers are updated in our Master Nutrient Management spreadsheet.

- In 2024, our office received a total of 276 plans for 113,006 acres which represents approximately 87% of the cropland in Kewaunee County.
- LWCD also receives and documents in GIS Hauling Records quarterly for liquid manure spread in the County.

Nutrient Management Program				Nutrient Management Farmer Education		
Year	Total Acres	Total # Plans	Total % Land	# Plans	Acres	Grant Revenue
2001	3197		2%			
2002	7353		5%			
2003	14880		11%			
2004	42991	80	31%			
2005	37718	76	27%			
2006	42195	92	30%			
2007	44766	88	32%			
2008	60853	113	44%			
2009	70720	144	51%			
2010	81947	164	59%			
2011	89458	187	65%			
2012	93049	202	67%			
2013	94507	229	68%			
2014	101820	267	73%			
2015	106189	273	77%			
2016	106900	276	77%			
2017	109493	279	79%			
2018	106897	271	77%	4	1355.2	\$3,406.00
2019	109111	268	79%	9	2147.6	\$9,108.00
2020	110940	272	80%	11	2848.8	\$10,657.00
2021	110998	269	80%	15	3875.4	\$15,689.00
2022	112480	272	87%	17	3979.6	\$18,060.00
2023	112322	269	86%	28	5396.2	\$15,779.00
2024	113006	276	87%	43	7986.3	\$24,767.00

Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE)

In 2018, LWCD started a NMFE class for Kewaunee County operators/landowners who wanted to write their own Nutrient Management Plans. LWCD annually applies for and administers this DATCP grant as well as teaches the class and works with farms on an individual basis to write their plans. The table above (in green) shows how the number of participants has grown significantly along with the acres and DATCP grant revenue we distribute to the participants.

- In 2024 – our highest at 43 participants for just under 8,000 acres and \$24,767 in grant money.

With documenting all the fields/crops/tillage in GIS by sub-basin, we are able to document **Soil Health Initiatives** in Kewaunee County including Cover Crops, No-Till acres as well as any/all land in alfalfa, grass hay or idle fields. Not listed, but we also have the capability of determining exactly how many acres of specific crops were planted as well as the other available tillage practices.

- In 2024, over 11,300 cover crops were planted in Kewaunee County and 22,400 acres of No-Till

Cover Crops Totals	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ahnapee River	1210.3	1683.2	1271	1420.4	1609.1	1352.1	1959.9	1786
Kewaunee River	1362.1	1970.5	1734.6	2486.9	2589.4	3002.8	3846.9	3320.3
East Twin River	1522.2	1821.5	1482.2	2296.8	3106.1	3341.4	3765.1	5018.6
Red River	205.5	235	499.1	330.4	347.5	322	538.1	694.8
West Twin	279	328	343.1	305.3	705.2	368	648.1	530
Totals	4579.1	6038.2	5330	6839.8	8357.3	8386.3	10758.1	11349.7

NT Acres Totals	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ahnapee River	1657.4	2324.8	3249.7	3689.7	5884.1	6988.5	7643.6	6720.7
Kewaunee River	3506.3	3138.3	4015.9	3626.6	5289.8	5352	5856.7	5631.4
East Twin River	3772.5	4141.7	4172.8	3477.1	5587.8	6446.1	7803.7	7563.5
Red River	393.9	577.1	514.7	695.3	887.9	1143.4	1497	1300.6
West Twin	1079.7	1060.1	1310.7	793.1	1213.9	1079.8	865.9	1229.9
Totals	10409.8	11242	13263.8	12281.8	18863.5	21009.8	23666.9	22446.1

Alfalfa/GH/Idle Totals	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ahnapee River	6828.2	6932.5	7457.7	7881.4	8264	6503.5	6568.3	7776.5
Kewaunee River	10980.2	11949.6	11347.3	10441.3	11918.5	11384.1	10320.4	10557.3
East Twin River	5929.7	6326.5	6989.8	7259	7969.9	6903.7	6138	6017.3
Red River	1691.5	1447.9	1972.7	1316.8	1430.1	1386.9	1437.3	1365
West Twin	1393.1	1204.8	1540.5	1206.8	1537.4	1419.3	1611.9	1338.2
Totals	26822.7	27861.3	29308	28105.3	31119.9	27597.5	26075.9	27054.3

Tree and Shrub Sales Program

LWCD annually offers trees and shrubs for resale and rents out tree planters (delivery & pickup) to Kewaunee County Landowners.

- In 2024, tree planters were rented out by 2 landowners. Our staff sets up reservations, issues invoices, and delivers/picks-up tree planters.

Wildlife Damage

Annually, Kewaunee County partners with US Fish & Wildlife to process Wildlife Damage Claims and Deer Donations to food pantries annually.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Annually, LWCD prepares on average 3 CREP contracts a year. Our office creates and submits cost sharing and payments. Our office partners with the Farm Service Agency on this program.

Sanitary Ordinance (Chapter 15)

LWCD administers the County’s Sanitary Ordinance (all Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. LWCD writes enforcement orders for failing/illegal septic systems, enforces the sanitary maintenance program, issues all sanitary permits, documents all 3-year pumping records and inspects all sanitary systems and soil borings prior to construction/backfill. There are approximately 4,856 documented sanitary system that are required to be pumped on a regular basis. In addition, our office goes onsite to develop house numbers for new development.

Sanitary Program					
Year	Soil Inspections	Septic Inspections	Existing Inspection Reports	Permit Apps	House #
2019	73	74	83	41	26
2020	49	106	83	47	14
2021	63	91	147	83	18
2022	43	74	40	91	11
2023	65	58	21	64	21
2024	34	46	8	60	40
Totals:	327	449	382	386	130

Since our office took over sanitary in 2018, staff are working to get all “NI – Not Inspected” in compliance.

- In 12/2019, there were 472 NI systems.
- In 12/2022, there was 92 NI systems
- As of 7/2025, there are 21 NI systems remaining.
- In 2024, 13 NI system landowners were referred to Corp. Counsel.

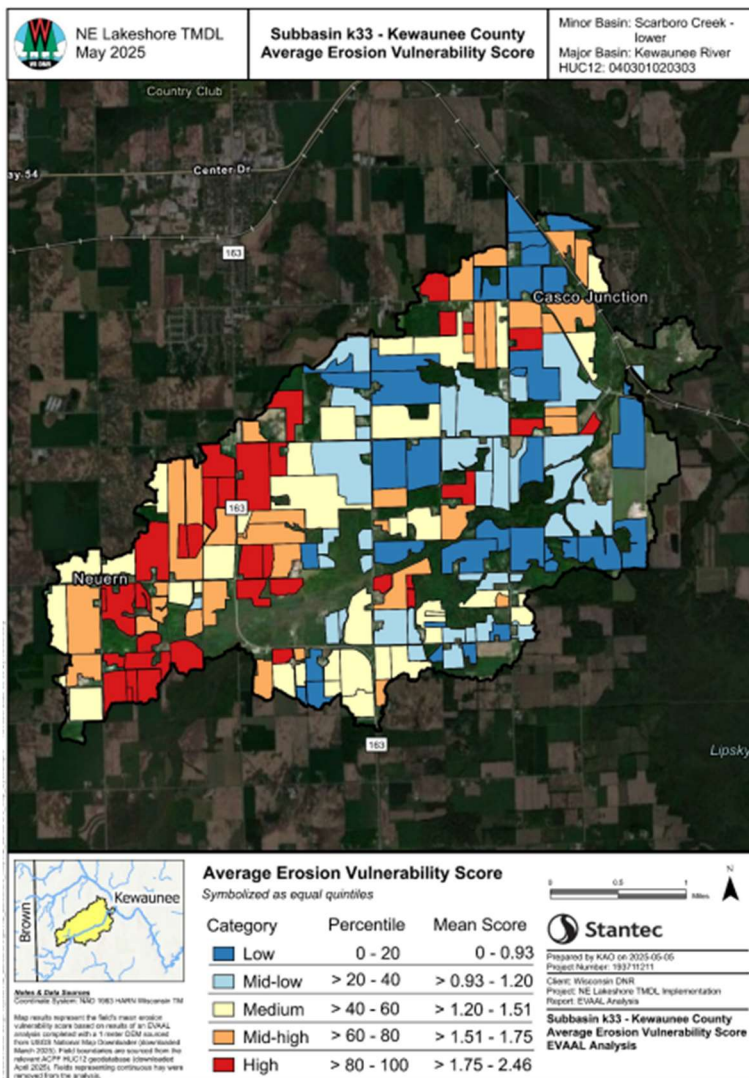
SANITARY SYSTEMS IN KEWAUNEE COUNTY SINCE 1985									
AS OF 7/29/2025									
Township	Total # of All In use Systems	Total # of Inspected & Compliant Systems	Total Not Inspected OR Not Yet Installed	Total of Not Inspected and/or have passed their install deadline	Working with our office for install (have permit and/or plans)	Compliant Percentages	Total # of Systems that Are NOT IN USE & Not Inspected	Referred to Corp. Counsel in 2023	Referred to Corp. Counsel in 12/6/2024
Ahnapee	441	440	1	0	1	99.8%	8	1	
Carlton	478	475	3	2	1	99.4%	12	1	3
Casco	496	494	2	0	2	99.6%	11		
Franklin	443	439	4	4	0	99.1%	11		3
Lincoln	397	396	1	1	0	99.7%	6		
Luxemburg	583	579	4	3	1	99.3%	9	1	3
Montpelier	562	561	1	1	0	99.8%	8	2	1
Pierce	424	421	3	2	1	99.3%	6	1	2
Red River	477	477	0	0	0	100.0%	8		
West Kewaunee	557	555	2	1	1	99.6%	13	1	1
Village of Casco	6	6		0		100.0%	0		
Vill. Lux	4	4		0		100.0%	0		
City of Algoma	10	10		0		100.0%	0		
City of Kewaunee	34	34	0	0		100.0%	0	1	
Total	4912	4891	21	14	7	99.6%	92	8	13

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) & Watershed Planning

LWCD partners with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on watershed planning that focuses on reducing cropland erosion, controlling nutrient losses from sedimentation and the application of wastes, and increasing the buffers along waterways to work towards meeting Wisconsin's Water Quality Standards for all waterbodies in Kewaunee County.

In 2024, under the Northeast Wisconsin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that includes all of Kewaunee County, our staff worked with DNR to designate our highest impacted watersheds that included Scarboro Creek (both K33-lower branch and k35-upper branch). Our office worked with DNR staff on the Erosion Vulnerability Assessment for Agricultural Lands (EVAAL) to determine (down to the field level) areas our office could target to install conservation practices to cost share to reduce phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment in 2025.

- Below is the k33 sub-basin, this was also done on k35 (just not attached).



Kewaunee County has also written two 9-key element plans (Kewaunee River & Ahnapee River) to help implement the TMDL. These plans can be found on our website.

Shoreland Zoning (Chapter 16) & Floodplain Zoning (Chapter 19)

LWCD administers the County's Shoreland Zoning and Flood Plain Ordinances. LWCD Issues land-use permits and building permits within 1000 feet of the lake or 300 feet from a navigable waterway. If a landowner has a question regarding plot plans for setbacks, wetland locations and flood plains, on-site meetings are conducted with the landowner. LWCD also handles questions and concerns from realtors, appraisers, surveyors, and the public.

- In 2024, (Shoreland Zoning)
 - 3 landowners requested variances to setbacks, which required onsite visits and Board of Adjustment Hearings.
 - Numerous questions and emails regarding setbacks, buildable sites, ordinary high-water marks, shoreland erosion, ect.
 - Permits issued for building w/in shoreland zoning area as well as variance/exception hearing
- In 2024, Kewaunee County received updated FEMA floodplain maps and therefore had to update our local Floodplain Ordinance.

State Task Force (Ordinance Development)

In 2023-2025, staff members were asked to participate and sit on the State Task Advisory Board for the Wisconsin Nutrient Management 590 standard update. This includes in person quarterly meetings, as well as, zoom meetings and phone calls.

Invasive Species

Annually, Kewaunee County submits a DNR grant and partners with Glacierland RC&D for invasive species work in the County. This includes Clean Boats Clean Water initiatives at our inland lakes as well as spraying for Phragmites and documenting new locations of invasive species in the County.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Implementation of TMDL practices and cost share agreements in Scarboro Creek sub-watershed
- 90% acres under Nutrient Management Plans
- 90% compliance with Hauler Voluntary Manure Records
- Get remaining 21 Non-Inspected (NI) systems in compliance with Kewaunee County Sanitary Ordinance
- Conduct 5 Non-Metallic Mining walkovers
- Increase participants in Nutrient Management Farmer Education
- Annually test 300 wells tested & see a reduction in unsafe wells
- 90-100 % compliance on walkovers for NR151
- Update Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance
- Continue to offer all programs & services identified on page 1 to landowners in Kewaunee County

ISSUES, CONCERNS & CHALLENGES

- Department goals are often linked to farms cost sharing or financial ability to implement the conservation practices, which also depend on state/federal budgets.
- Weather plays a huge role in conservation planning. The percent of cover crops planted, gully erosion, construction activities, sanitary system implementation, and even issues on our shoreland can be impacted by weather.
- Time and prioritizing staff to new arising issues on the landscape.
 - For example, nitrates became a focal point in well contamination in 2022, therefore, we have been shifting staff resources.
- TMDL implementation will be new program in 2025 and will take staff time in drafting contracts, landowner discussions and field preparation, monitoring compliance and DNR reporting requirements.
- Hauling records from “Other” waste sources (municipal, ect) to document compliance
- While it is great receiving new grants; the workload with reporting, participation, final reports, and reimbursements take a large amount of staff resources.
 - Another Issue with agricultural grants is that our staff put hours/day/weeks into surveys and technical deigns/plans – and then the landowner does not implement.
- Staff retention is always a concern. Hiring and training new employees is time consuming and expensive.