

Planning and Development

SELECTED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Value of new construction, land use permits (Year to date)	70.3 million
Number of acres planted with the County's "no till planter" (Year to Date).	420 acres were planted in 2023.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Land Conservation

- Bond and SEG cost share contracts approved by LCC and extended into 2024 with \$37,100.00 in extended funds.
- The new no-till drill was delivered in December and put into storage for spring of 2024.
- UniverCity project wrapped up in December with students presenting their projects.
- 2024 Multi Discharger Variance Funds to start arriving in March.
- LCC Conservation Awards were presented at the December County Board meeting.

GIS

- Completed our Emergency Service Atlas Project, produced a print ready pdf document and successfully worked with for the DNR and Fire Chiefs receiving a second grant for printing.
- Completed our 2023 NG911 grant project with DATAMARK. Conducted remediation pass of our NG911 GIS data making sure our migration to the new WI NG911 data standards meets the county and statewide needs.
- Submitted an updated address point layer to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, with the new NG911 data standard this submission dramatically improved the spatial accuracy a usability of our data for the WisVote system.
- Finished our public facing GIS website migration from the sunset WGX site to the new Beacon platform.
- Continued remapping of Township 25N Range 7W.

Planning and Sustainability

- Hired 2 recycling attendants to fill vacant positions and hired a Recycling & Sustainability intern.
- Awarded 6 grants of \$1,000 each through the Schools Fight Food Waste program to area schools. County staff and JONAH Environmental Taskforce Volunteers assisted all awardees in performing waste audits and educating students on composting.
- Hosted final stakeholder engagement meetings for Community CARP and finalized document.
- Working with steering committee to review and update 2015 County Farmland Preservation Plan. The plan update is anticipated to be completed this year.
- Received \$18,000 grant from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to update Farmland Preservation Plan. The grant money will primarily be used to offset county staff costs associated with the plan update.
- Will be contracting with the Town of Drammen to update portions of their comprehensive plan.

Emergency Management

- Focused on closing out FY23 grants
- Assisting with reviewing phone apps and mass notification system options
- Offered trainings on Vulnerable Populations, Cybersecurity, Event Security Planning, and Incident Management Team Liaison Officer Position-Specific course
- Conducted a significant Emergency Operations Center exercise focused on sustaining operations for a long-term power outage with severe winter conditions

Land Records

- Wrapped 2023 road maintenance corners –draft tiesheets, proof, sign, scan, push to web.
- Warm, permissive weather allowed additional field collection in some lesser-accessible areas.

- Cleaned data for records that were pushed to web.
- Closed 2023 tax roll year.
- Assisting with reviewing phone apps and mass notification system options

Land Use Controls

- Continue the implementation of the updated title 18 and assist Towns as they move forward with adoption.
 - 6 towns have adopted and three others appear to be considering adoption.
- Nearing completion of 2023 NMM annual reporting.
- Review permit application and land division requests.
- Self-audit and ensure existing NMM permits are complete. Any missing information will need to be obtained.
- Continued onboarding of Land Use Technician and increasing responsibilities as knowledge expands.

ISSUES ON THE HORIZON AND SIGNIFICANT TRENDS

Land Conservation

- Town of Clear Creek working on acquiring petitions to expand the Golden Triangle AEA.

GIS

- We applied for and were successful in receiving a 2024 NG911 Grant. This project will significantly improve the quality and completeness of our NG911 data.
- With the migration to the Beacon platform, we will need to update our GIS Hub site to highlight this new app along with several other new additions.
- To complete our 2023 Ortho project, we will integrate the new images into our AWS account and make them available for public download.

Planning and Sustainability

- It is unlikely that there will be an affordable option for pesticides and fertilizer disposal anytime soon through our Clean Sweep program. Need to make decision whether to continue not taking those items, allocate substantially more money to be able to allow residents to dispose of them for free, or start charging a fee during the events for disposal.
- As the Community CARP is adopted it will require a shift in staff time and resources to implement the new initiatives outlined in the plan.
- Will be updating recycling code and recycling related contracts to hopefully streamline program administration.
- Waste haulers have decided to not continue the bulk item pick up dates anymore.
- There has been a notable reduction in the number of inquiries regarding residential subdivision development, which may be construed as a leading indicator of near-term (next 1-2 years) development activity and new home permitting. Higher interest rates, high construction costs, economic uncertainty, and challenges with intergovernmental cooperation regarding annexation are all likely factors adversely impacting housing development in unincorporated Eau Claire County.

Emergency Management

- Continued reduction of federal grant funding is forcing state and local governments to start reducing training and potentially services
- Increasing number of GIS tools that will help streamline disaster response and recovery, but staff needs to learn how to use GIS effectively
- Number of billion-dollar weather-related disasters hit a record for at least the 3rd time in the past 5 years, and with the lack of winter precipitation to date, there is concern for wildfire and drought conditions locally to impact the spring

Land Records

- Weather conditions have not allowed us to access areas that require frozen ground or swamp surface.
- Moving into a new project area with two current project areas open will be difficult. -We need to wrap Town 26 North, Range 6 West. The pausing of the field position eliminated the field staffer

that had visited those sites and corners. Making decisions about the corner position requires firsthand visit experience, so we've had to revisit many of those corners.

Land Use Controls

- Higher interest rates than what's been available in recent history are causing concern that permitting will slow causing any permit revenue to decrease. The permit activity has not slowed over the previous year, but this is still a concern moving forward.

CURRENT COLLABORATIONS (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

Land Conservation

- Met with a UW student to review a potential spring semester UniverCity GIS project.
- Assisting the Lake Altoona District by attending bi-weekly meetings with the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Continue to partner with the WI DNR on NR 151 violations.
- TTECH is supposed to go live with the Stormwater Module.
- Corporation Counsel preparing draft Title 17 revisions.

GIS

- The move to NG911 is a collaborative effort between the City and County of Eau Claire. We are working together to improve the completeness and quality of our data. We have created a grant funded GIS LTE Tech to work on both City and County address data.
- Working with the Highway department and their GIS needs during staff turnover.
- Continue collaborating with the City of Eau Claire in our migration to the Beacon platform.
- Serving on the Wisconsin Land Information Association's legislative committee collaborated with many other county-based organizations (WCA, WRDA, WRPLA) on statewide land records issues.

Planning and Sustainability

- Partnering with ECASD, JONAH Environmental Task force, and Earthbound Environmental on the first round of Schools Fight Food Waste grant program.
- Working on a joint Energy Innovation Grant Program application with Facilities, Highway, and Planning and Development for EV infrastructure and 3 electric vehicles.
- As part of the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition applying for grant opportunities to improve data access and availability of greenhouse emissions inventory software to local governments across the state.
- Planning the 2nd Earth Week Open House with Beaver Creek Reserve and JONAH ETF.

Emergency Management

- FEMA Regional Advisory Council
- Wisconsin Emergency Management Association and International Association of EM's
- Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee

Land Records

- Began working with Airport on legal description work for lease areas depicted on the lease exhibit map. These descriptions will be recorded in compliance with new rules for tracking/taxing personal property that has a geographic location.
- Worked very closely with GIS to ensure the move of survey information to the new Beacon GIS webserver still provided surveyors web access to land records.

Land Use Controls

- Continue to work with the public, Towns, and County Board Members that have an interest or concern regarding zoning, shoreland, floodplain, and other program areas our office covers.
- Work with Towns to implement the updated title 18.

GOALS FOR NEXT QUARTER

Land Conservation

- Nutrient Management Farmer Education workshops held in January 2024 with 47 participants. 1 on 1 meetings to continue throughout spring.
- Apply for 2025 DATCP funding.
- Hire summer Conservation Intern.
- Bring Title 17 revisions to the LCC and P&D Committees for approval.

GIS

- Complete the redesign of our ESRI Hub site, highlighting many of our new GIS Apps.
- On board a new GIS LTE Tech for our NG911 grant project.
- Finalize our 2023 Flight by having our data available for public download on our Open Data site.
- Launch the next remapping project area.

Planning and Sustainability

- Host open houses for the community to provide feedback on the CARP.
- Adoption of Community CARP by county board.
- Update design and function of recycling & sustainability webpages.
- Hire and onboard Planning Intern.
- Finalize contract with Town of Drammen to update portions of the town's comprehensive plan.

Emergency Management

- Kick off hazard mitigation plan revision
- Start or continue planning for 3 exercises in 2024 (hazardous materials, airport, county disaster/EOC)
- Start work on 2024 Integrated Preparedness Plan items

Land Records

- Continue to work with Airport in creating legal descriptions for leased parcels.
- Assemble corner folders for road maintenance work, 2024.
- Begin recruitment for a summer survey intern.
- Continue to work in Town 26 North, Range 6 West corner decisions and finalizing of tie sheets.

Land Use Controls

- Assist and support Towns as they move forward with the implementation of the updated title 18.
- Submit Title 18 to DATCP for review and certify compliance with farmland preservation standards.
- Update NMM reclamation overlay to ensure compliance with NR135