

2017 ANNUAL REPORT / LAND CONSERVATION & ZONING OFFICE

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To the Waushara County Board of Supervisors:

2017 was another busy year in the Land Conservation & Zoning Office. We will outline the highlights below:

- General Building activity remained very steady and increased significantly in 2017 compared to what it was in 2016. Overall, we witnessed a 13% increase across the board. Hopefully that trend will continue and Waushara County will show steady growth over the next few years and construction seasons.
- Our office issued 473 land use permits for 61 new homes or additions to homes, and 295 accessory structures.
- General Engineering Company, our current contracted inspection agency, issued permits for 68 new homes, 17 commercial structures, 46 additions to homes, 66 alterations and decks to homes 194 electrical installations or upgrades, and 37 miscellaneous permits, for a total of 427 permits which resulted in over \$162,598 in fees collected.
- In addition, our office issued 245 sanitary permits authorizing 69 new private onsite wastewater treatment systems, and 176 replacement systems or reconnections to existing systems.

- Mandatory septic system maintenance notices were sent to 3,564 Waushara County landowners, resulting in 45 citations, and an overall compliance rate of 98%. The Wisconsin Fund grant program benefited 1 property owner for a total of \$2,718.89.
- Our department conducted over 1019 field visits to various properties around the county. These included 469 sanitary system inspections, 42 on-site soil verifications, about 328 code non-compliance investigations, 81 annual travel trailer inspections, 207 landowner requested information visits, 20 re-vegetation verifications, and 64 address number assignments.
- There were 400 code non-compliance inquiries made to our office, 333 investigations that were brought into compliance, and 214 non-compliance situations are still pending.
- Staff worked with 17 non-metallic mining sites involving approximately 221.86 un-reclaimed or active acres. Annual inspection fees netted the department \$3,600. No acres were certified as reclaimed in 2017, and 39.4 acres are pending certification as reclaimed for 2018.
- Working with the Soil & Water Resource Management Program, \$68,800 was secured for landowners for hard practices. Projects completed using these State dollars included: stream bank/shoreline protection projects, manure storage facilities, wetland restorations, and a roof runoff system.
- The Land Conservation Department tracks a total of 48,263 acres under nutrient management plans, which equates to 32.4% of the county's tillable land. \$33,880 of Segregated funds (SEG) were signed in 2017 for N.M. on 926 acres. No funds transferred from other counties. APHIS numbers already changes.
- The Water Quality Improvement Program supported and financed by Waushara County allows for \$25,000/per year to be used for cost-sharing worthy conservation projects which may not qualify for state funding. In 2017, projects included several wetland and shoreline restorations located throughout the county.
- Waushara County still has oversight of the Farmland Preservation Program. Qualifying farmers in the program have an opportunity for tax relief, although the number of participants is dwindling.
- The 11th annual Conservation Field Days environmental learning event was held in May at Camp Lucerne. Attending were 190 5th graders from all public schools in Waushara County, as well as home schooled and private school children in that age group.
- Assistance for Construction Site Erosion Control was provided to 126 landowners with 37 onsite visits for inspection were made. Landowner plans relative to erosion control, re-vegetation and storm water management resulted in 29 total contracts with technical design for 12 individual plans being prepared for landowners.
- The Land Conservation Department continues to contract with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to provide the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program. Deer damage payable losses in 2017 totaled \$25,278.71 divided amongst 8 participating landowners.

Our goals remain the same: to provide a high level of service to landowners looking to acquire various land use, zoning, building, sanitary or manure storage permits, and looking to develop or utilize their property using sound land management practices, some of which we can cost share. We aim to provide the best general information we can when landowners are looking to develop land, install agricultural practices, or enhance habitat. While providing an array of information, we do everything possible to preserve our unique natural resources, safeguard public health and welfare, and secure state and federal dollars for Best Management Practices so that we remain environmentally responsible, yet fiscally conservative.