

# County Conservation Funding, Forests, and Groundwater Protection in Wisconsin

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WCA Environment & Land Use Seminar

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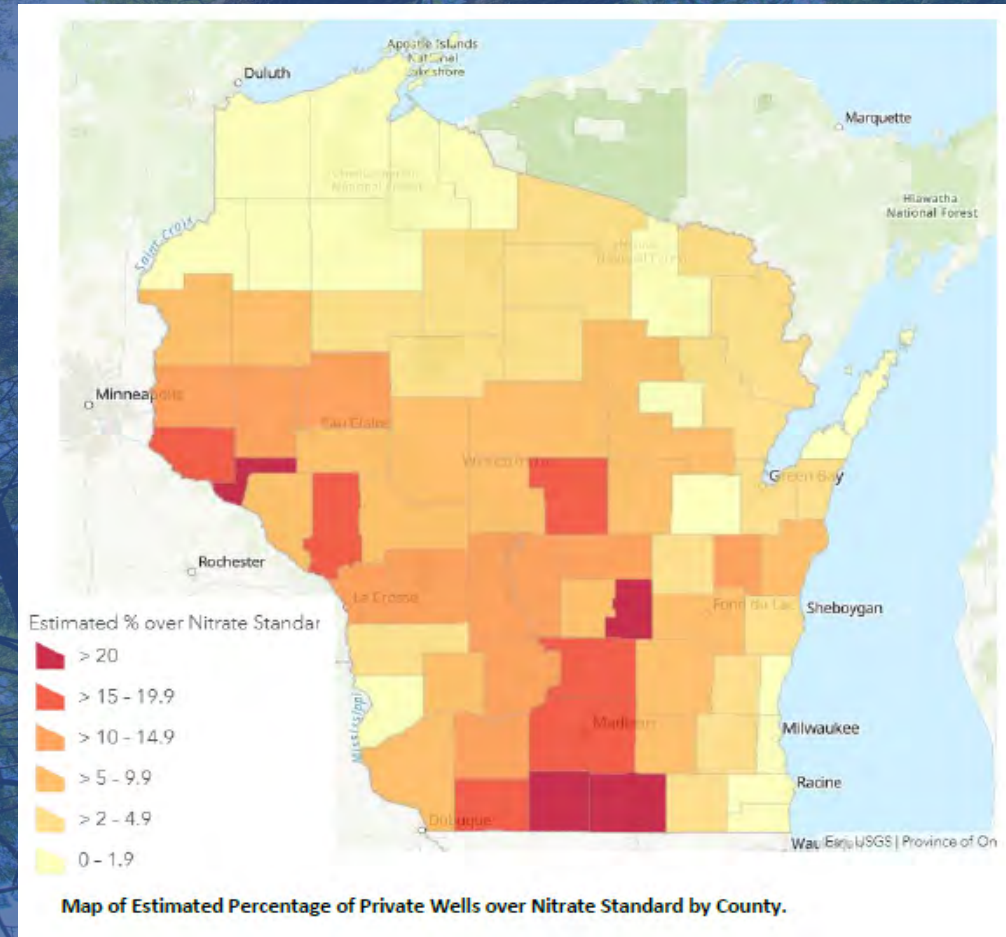


# OUTLINE

- Current backdrop of water issues in Wisconsin and forests
- WI Land+Water Budget Priorities
- A look at divided government in Wisconsin
- What's in the Executive Budget?
- How you can support conservation

# Water issues in Wisconsin

- Increasing pollution of surface waters
- Lead contamination of drinking water
- Groundwater
  - 42,000 private wells contaminated by nitrate
  - Emerging contaminants – PFAs



# In the news...

## DNA evidence hazards back

STEVEN VERBURG sverburg@madison.com Feb 2



## inking water nd manure

Home

Wisconsin State

Spea

February 11, 2019

Speaker Robin V

## Focusing

When the Speaker of the Assembly announced a water quality task force following the release of the report on water quality in Kewaunee County, I felt it was my responsibility as chairman of the Assembly Environment Committee to become a member of this panel, but more importantly, I believe my experience in working on water quality issues in Kewaunee County could be a tremendous asset in helping the entire state.

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got water?  
addressing our clean  
drinking water challenges

## ter Quality

could be forming a water quality task force in northwestern Wisconsin, I just

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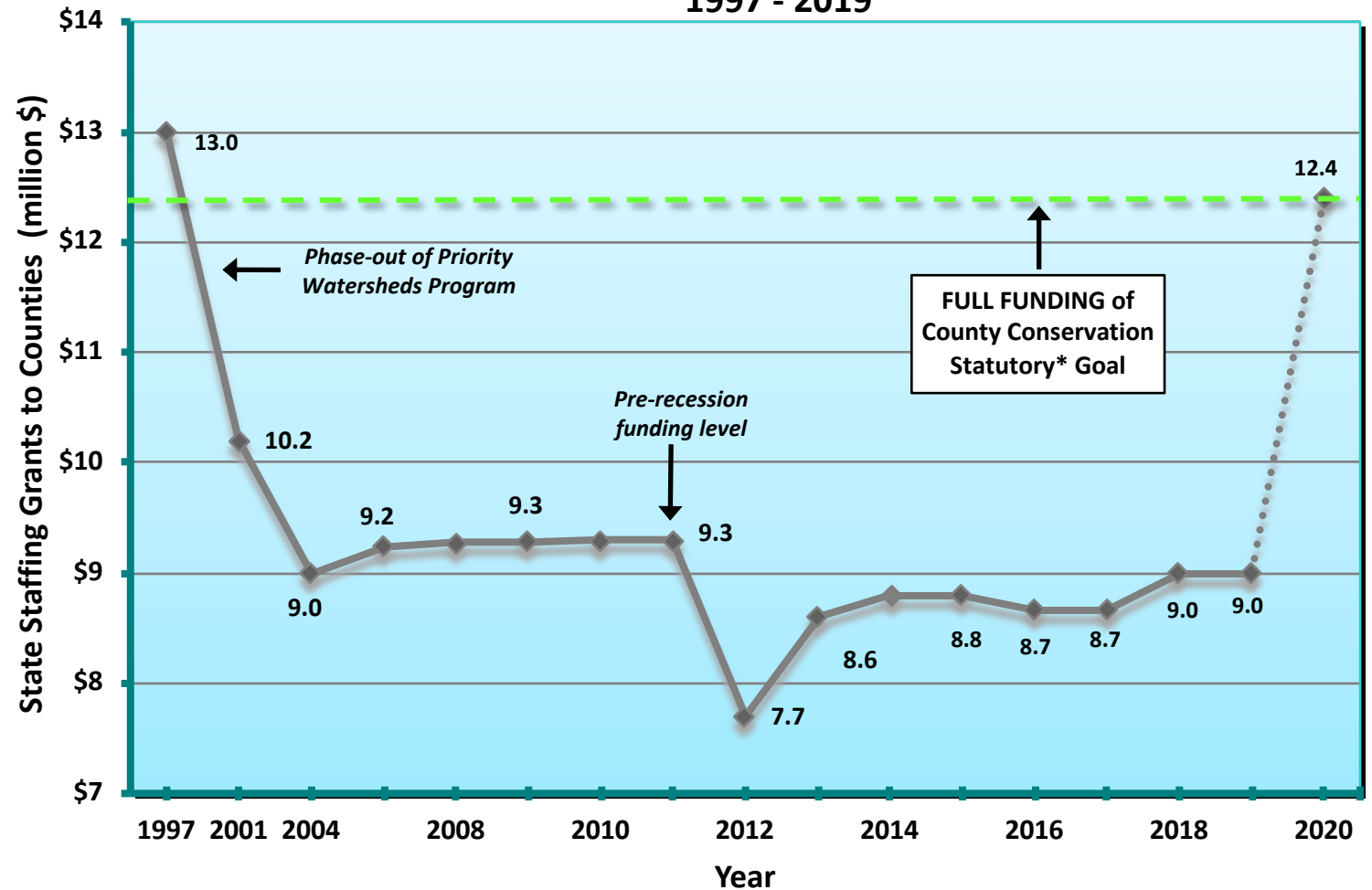
# WI Land+Water budget priorities

- 1) Provide an increase of \$3.4 million in annual funding for county conservation staffing grants (DATCP budget, SWRM program)
  - 1) Brings annual funding to \$12.4 million, or full funding of Wis. § 92.14(6)(b)
- 2) Extend annual state bond revenue for cost-share grants from \$3.5 million to \$5 million (DATCP budget, SWRM program)
- 3) Restore \$150,00 in state support to the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey to hire a hydrogeologist to map rural groundwater resources (DOA budget, Groundwater Budget Supplement)

# County staffing & support grants

Annual Funding

Figure 1: Annual DATCP SWRM Grants for County Land Conservation Staff  
1997 - 2019



\*Section 92.14(6)(b) Wis. Stats (created in 1999) specifies a funding goal for county staffing: "the department shall attempt to provide funding...for an average of 3 staff persons per county with full funding for the first staff person, 70% funding for the second staff person and 50% funding for any

# A look at divided government in Wisconsin

“Divided Government” in the Capitol – first-time since 2005

Democratic Governor Tony Evers elected by last Fall

Won by just more one point – huge margins in Madison and Milwaukee and other large cities

Republicans continue to dominate control of Legislature

State Assembly control of 63 to 35 seats (one vacant Dem seat)

State Senate control of 19 to 14 seats

Does Collaboration or Conflict lie ahead?

2019-21 Biennial Budget

Gubernatorial Appointees

# Budget Passage May Take Awhile

- Legislative Republicans to start to craft their own budget
  - Gov's budget spends too much, not room for consensus
    - Opposition to MA fed funding
    - Concerns w/ policy items, e.g. tuition for undocumented workers, repealing right-to-work, etc.
  - Will start with their own “base budget” – built from current fiscal year
    - What do they need to prioritize after 8 years of one-party control?
      - Transportation, funding for UW and district attorneys



# Budget Process Timeline

- Apr 24 – last JFC public hearing
- May 1 – Mem Day Wknd – JFC begins to craft its version of budget
- May 15 – Estimates of status of state's finances are released
- June 1 - June 30 – Legislature debates and could pass its version of the budget
- ??? – Governor signs budget

# Stalemate or Signage?

- New biennium begins July 1, 2019
- Is there a consensus budget that can be signed by Governor or one that will be vetoed in full?
- Summer and most likely Fall of stalemate or negotiations?

# What's In the Governor's Budget?

- Governor Evers introduced budget on February 28
  - “People’s Budget” - \$83 billion two year spending document
    - Formulated by Governor having listening sessions across the state since his election
    - “Connects the Dots” on several issues currently facing Wisconsin
      - K-12 funding – calls for 2/3 funding by the state for public schools, caps choice schools
      - UW funding - \$150 million funding increase
      - Medical Assistance – accepts \$330 million in federal funding
      - Transportation – calls for \$660 million in increased funding
        - 8 cent per gallon gas tax increase, increased fees for hybrids and heavy vehicles
        - Eliminates the Minimum Markup on gasoline purchases

# Conservation in Executive Budget

	FY 2017-19	Exec Budget FY 2019-21	WI L+W Budget Priority
Annual County Conservation Grants (DATCP SWRM)	\$9.0 million	\$10.4 million	\$12.4 million
Annual bonding authority for cost-share (DATCP SWRM)	\$3.5 million	\$5.0 million	\$5.0 million
Annual WGNHS hydrogeologist (DOA Groundwater Supplement)	N/A	N/A	\$150,000 for 1 FTE

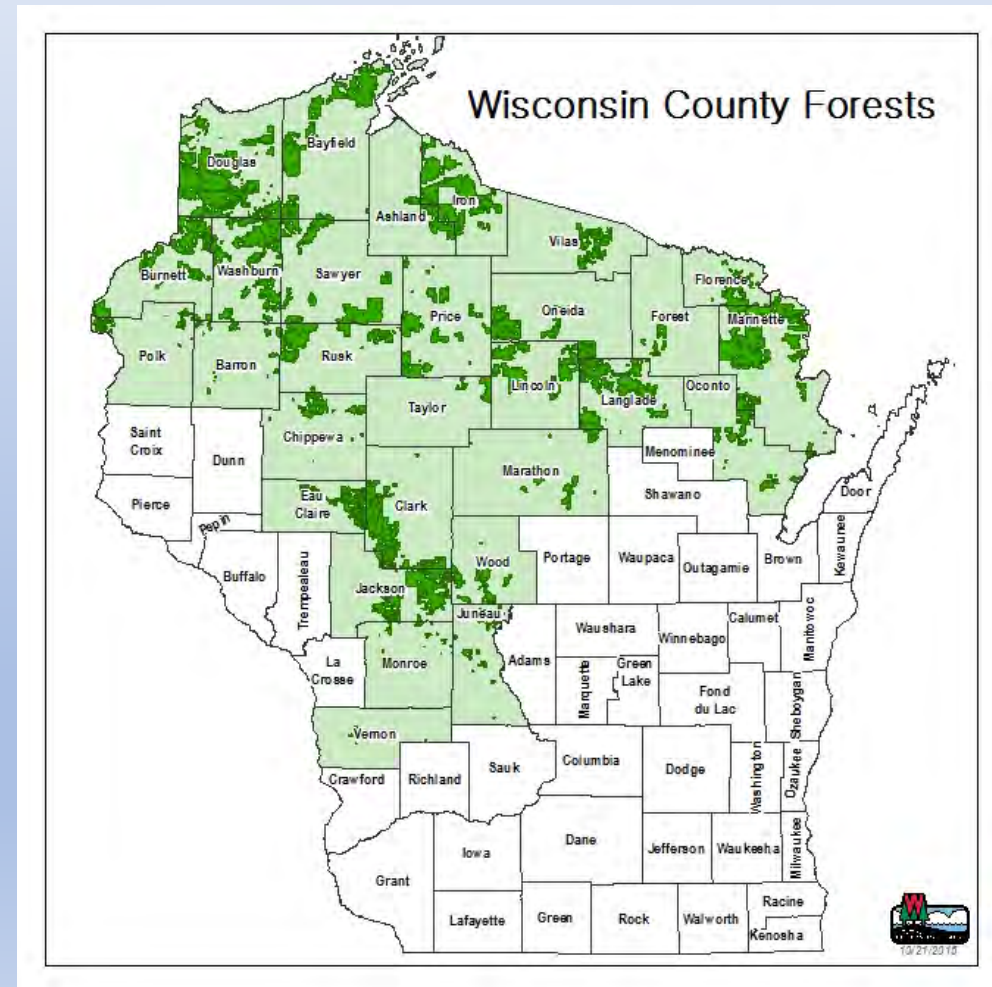
# Conservation in Executive Budget

- DATCP:
  - + \$1.5 million SEG annually NM cost-share; PLW grants up to \$750K
  - Positions to support grazing, organic education & tech asst.
- DNR
  - CAFOs:
    - + \$425K/5 FTE (field staff, admin, spills, groundwater, compliance)
    - Paid for by annual \$650 fee, 5-year permit renewal fee of \$3,270
  - TRM/NOD:
    - + \$6.5 million in bonding
    - + \$400K to support soft practices
  - Stewardship:
    - Recommends a 2-year extension of the Stewardship program at current funding levels (through FY2022) using previously authorized, but unobligated bonding authority

# Conservation in Executive Budget

- DNR - WATER
  - + \$40 million for lead service line replacement
  - + 5 FTE (\$410K) research scientists to focus on contaminants
  - + \$4 million to support 4 FTEs implementing key TMDLs
  - + \$1.4 million to support Lake & River Protection grants
  - + \$800K for Well Compensation Fund, increases eligibility
  - + \$25 million for contaminated sediment cleanup
- University of Wisconsin-Extension
  - + \$1.5 million for 20 FTE county-based agriculture agents

# 29 Counties with County Forests Established Under State Statutes 28.10 & 28.11 2.4 million acres



# County Forest Acreages

Ashland	40,305	Juneau	17,799	Taylor	17,688
Barron	16,265	Langlade	130,001	<b><u>Vernon</u></b>	<b><u>1,887</u></b>
Bayfield	172,021	Lincoln	100,843	Vilas	41,141
Burnett	111,101	Marathon	30,195	Washburn	149,956
Chippewa	34,654	Marinette	229,939	Wood	37,826
Clark	134,672	Monroe	7,281		
<b><u>Douglas</u></b>	<b><u>280,066</u></b>	Oconto	43,706		
Eau Claire	52,671	Oneida	82,399		
Florence	36,395	Polk	17,166		
Forest	14,827	Price	92,302		
Iron	175,308	Rusk	89,324		
Jackson	122,450	Sawyer	115,197		





“Watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow” is a statutory directive for county forests. Healthy, managed forests are a significant contributor to clean water and clean air in Wisconsin



# What you can do

- 1) Contact Joint Finance Committee (JFC) members to show support
- 2) Contact your state Assembly and Senate representatives
  - 1) Not sure? [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov)
  - 2) Have a personal relationship with your reps? Tell us!
- 3) Speak for conservation at a JFC public hearing
  - 1) Last hearing: Wed, April 24 at UW-Green Bay
  - 2) Also can submit comments to [BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- 4) Encourage your Committee to submit resolution of support for conservation budget priorities to your state representatives

# Questions

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