

ATTEND LOBBY DAY IN MADISON and PROTECT THE RESOURCES OF LOCAL COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION OFFICES AND MUCH NEEDED RESOURCES TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT OUR LAND AND WATER IN WISCONSIN!



**.....keeping
watch on the
industry**

**Issue: #125
Date: MARCH 11, 2017**



CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY-MARCH 29TH

When: Wednesday, March 29th, 2017 10:00am-

5:00pm

Registration will begin at 9:00am and the program will begin promptly at 10:00am

Where: Monona Terrace, Exhibition Hall A, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI 53703

What: On March 29th, hundreds of conservationists – including you, we hope! – will meet with as many as 132 legislators at the State Capitol, demonstrating the power of our conservation community and voicing our concerns.

At Conservation Lobby Day, you can expect to:

- **1. Get the inside scoop on the top issues facing our drinking water and public lands.**
- **2. Participate in a scheduled meeting with your state Senator and Representative's offices.**
- **3. Network, strategize, and make new friends with hundreds of other conservation-minded citizens from across the state.**
- **4. Attend trainings presented by professionals.**

**Sign up here or register online at:
<http://conservationvoters.org/conservation-lobby-day-2017/>**

**Contact Seth Hoffmeister, Northeast Organizer,
with any questions at
seth@conservationvoters.org or 920-249-7400**

County Conservationists serve as our first line of defense against water pollution. The staff of County Soil and Water Conservation Departments help implement critical programs that prevent manure, fertilizer, sediment, and other chemicals from entering our waterways.

Some of the important services County Conservationists provide to keep our water safe and free of contaminants include:

- 1. Providing essential water testing and monitoring services.**
- 2. Helping farmers design and construct manure storage facilities.**
- 3. Helping establish conservation cropping practices.**
- 4. Aiding in nutrient management planning.**
- 5. Assisting landowners in finding cost-share**

funds for conservation work.

County Conservationists: Our First Line of Defense Against Water Pollution

Ask your legislator: Will you support restoring funding for County Conservation staff for

- 1. Providing essential water testing and monitoring services?**
- 2. Helping farmers design and construct manure storage facilities?**
- 3. Helping establish conservation cropping practices?**
- 4. Aiding in nutrient management planning?**
- 5. Assisting landowners in finding cost-share funds for conservation work?**

Soil and Water Conservation Departments are so central to Wisconsin's natural resource management that the departments' funding is written into Wisconsin Statute. Under that statute each county is entitled to an average of three County Conservationists with a goal that the state will fund:

100% of the first position

70% of the second position

50% of each subsequent position

The state's share of this commitment has never been realized. Instead, it has decreased in recent budgets. At the same time, County Conservation staff have been given new responsibilities, leaving them increasingly underfunded.

Governor Walker's proposed budget would reduce staff funding to county Soil and Water Conservation Departments by \$800,000 per year (\$1.6 million total). This would have lasting impacts on our first line of defense, putting at risk our lakes, rivers, and drinking water, by:

- 1. Reducing the number of County Conservation staff providing soil and water conservation services to counties – and farmers – across the state.**
- 2. Limiting counties' ability to support local conservation efforts.**
- 3. Reducing the state's ability to monitor soil and water pollution.**

Bob Micheel is the County Conservationist for the Monroe County Land Conservation Department (LCD) in the heart of the driftless region. Monroe County is also home to Randy Nierling's rabbit breeding farm. When Randy was in the early stages of building and expanding his operation, he reached out to the Farm Service

Agency (FSA) for an operating loan. Because of manure concerns, the FSA asked that the LCD get involved. Manure from Randy's 5,000 rabbits – which is about the same amount of waste as 25 dairy cows- was exiting the barn in a slow-moving mass, burning the grass and releasing pungent odors on its way. Bob and NRCS engineer Amanda Crowe found that the manure was moving toward a ditch adjacent to the road. In a heavy rainfall, it could quickly reach Lemonweir Creek, which feeds into Lake Tomah. They worked with Randy and, thanks to their assistance, Randy was able to upgrade his facility build enough manure storage capacity for 10,000 rabbits, and secure his operating loan.

The new storage also reduced odors and prevented waste from oozing into Lemonweir Creek. The farm, creek, and community all benefitted from the skill and problem solving of Wisconsin conservation professionals.

ATTEND WISCONSIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE OF VOTERS ' LOBBY DAY ON MARCH 29 AND RAISE QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS AND MANY OTHER CONCERNS WE ALL HAVE ABOUT WISCONSIN'S FUTURE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS.

Thanks to Kate Beaton out of the Eau Claire

office for the above article and the information about Lobby Day!

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Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.

The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The editor of the Frac Sand Sentinel does not accept any responsibility or liability for the use or misuse of the content of this newsletter or reliance by any persons on the newsletters contents.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.CCC-WIS.COM for additional information