Volume 3 Issue 4

October, 2010

Harvest Moon
by: Roger Zimmerman

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER BY THE MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

# Wisconsin Emergency Highway Aid Programs

Jim Griesbach, Highway Department

If your municipality had damage to public roads, bridges, culverts, shoulders, utilities, or other public facilities due to the September flooding, you may qualify for assistance. There are 3 programs available to local government to assist in repairing road damage.

**Flood Damage Aids**

Eligibility: local & county roadway flooding damage

Application: petition regional DOT office within 60 days of damage

Costs covered: Up to 75% replacement costs, 50% improvement costs

Contact:
Janice Watzke, WisDOT
608-266-9797
Bob Fasick, WisDOT
608-266-3438

**Public Assistance**

Eligibility: Public and private non-profit facilities and road structures.

Application: FEMA & WisDOT inspection

Costs covered:
Repair to pre-disaster condition. Includes reimbursement for emergency protective measures such as traffic control, pumping, & sandbagging

Cost-share payment:
FEMA: 75%
Wisconsin Emergency Management: 12.5%
Applicant: 12.5%
Minimum $1000 damage

Contact:
David LaWall, WEM
608-242-3252
Bob Fasick, WisDOT
608-266-3438

**Emergency Relief**

Eligibility: Major collectors and above

Application: photos of damage, location, description, & estimate.

Costs covered: physical damage, debris removal and protective measures.

Cost-share payment:
100% if done within 180 days of event. After 180 days, prorated basis. Minimum $5000 damage

Contact:
Tom Strock, FHWA
608-829-7507
Mike Sproul, WisDOT
608-266-8680

Flood Damage Aids Program information:
www.co.marathon.wi.us/is/hwy/pdf/HighwayAidPrograms.pdf
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/highways/flood.htm

# Flood Damage in Marathon County

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

The recent flooding in Marathon County and 8 other counties has been declared a "major disaster". This declaration triggers assistance coordinated by FEMA.

Cost-share assistance is available to local governments and certain nonprofit organizations.

Funds are also available for hazard mitigation efforts.

FEMA will be conducting briefings in the affected areas on the application procedures. Dates and locations of the briefings have not been determined.

As of October 21, no counties have qualified for individual (private) assistance.

**Assistance available to local governments & certain non-profits:**

- Public facilities and non-profit: Not less than 75%
- Debris removal and public safety emergency measures: not less than 75%
- Hazard mitigation projects: up to 75%

| **Estimated 2010 Flood Damages Marathon County** Source: FEMA | |
|---|---|
| Debris Removal | $26,802 |
| Emergency protective measures | $39,740 |
| Roads & bridges | $330,056 |
| Water control facilities | $7,000 |
| Other (parks, recreational facilities, etc) | $14,000 |
| Total | $417,598 |

# Flood Damaged Structures in the Floodplain

Dean Johnson, Conservation, Planning, & Zoning

Marathon County and its communities (except Fenwood, Unity, Dorchester and Abbotsford) participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

NFIP participation makes federally-backed disaster assistance and flood insurance available to residents and businesses. NFIP communities are required to inspect damaged structures in the 100-year floodplain.

If you had damage to a structure or know of someone who had damage to a structure due to the recent flood, please arrange for an inspection.

Only structures in the floodplain are required to be inspected by the local zoning office.

Prompt completion of inspections will facilitate the review of the application for hazard mitigation funds.

If the damaged property is in a city or village, contact the city/village zoning office.

If the damaged property is in the unincorporated areas of Marathon County, contact the Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department at 715-261-6020

# New Recycling Opportunities for Plastics

Meleesa Johnson, Solid Waste Department

Even though plastics 1-7 have been banned from landfills since 1995, plastics 3-7 were waived from the ban because there were few markets for the materials.

Plastics still make up about 14% of materials entering landfills. However, a new recycling opportunity will decrease waste and increase recycling tonnage!

Veolia and Portage County announced that some types of plastics 3-7 and aseptic packaging could now be processed at the Portage County Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

A large amount of recycling collected in Marathon County is processed in Portage County. For most Marathon County communities, more plastics can be recycled. The following items are accepted at the MRF:

#3 - #7 plastics items: food & beverage containers, cat litter containers, ice cream pails, 5-gallon pails, medicine / pill containers, bakery containers, flower pots or trays, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, cups & tubs, clear and rigid clam shell (deli-style) packaging and small plastic toys

Aseptic containers: cartons or boxes used for juice drinks, milk, soy milk, ice cream, broths, etc.

Paper milk cartons: cartons used for milk, juice and paper ice cream containers, etc.

Large plastic items such as children's playhouses, tables, slides and wagons, as well as 55-gallon drums (must be triple rinsed) and may be self-delivered to the Portage County MRF. No fees apply.

For more information:
Marathon County Solid Waste:
1-877-270-3989

# Sustainable Woody Biomass Harvesting

Virginia Mayo Black, Communications Specialist-Wisconsin DNR Forestry

For a growing number of private landowners and communities, wood-based bio-energy is a topic of considerable interest. "Woody biomass" refers to small diameter trees and branches and the tops and limbs of harvested trees. Because woody biomass harvest can remove more material than traditional harvesting, care must be exercised to avoid environmental damage.

*Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines: Field Manual for Loggers, Landowners, and Land Managers* offers guidelines for sustainable and responsible harvesting of woody biomass. The guide is available from the Wisconsin Council on Forestry.

The Forest Products Utilization and Marketing-Biomass website lists Wisconsin pellet plants, links to publications and webcasts, and names staff who can offer specific guidance on woody biomass harvesting and utilization and related assistance.

WI Council on Forestry:
http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/
Forest Products Utilization & Marketing:
http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/um/biomass.htm

# Wisconsin Venison Donation Program—2010

Andy Johnson, Conservation Planning & Zoning

Since 2000, Marathon County hunters have donated nearly 1,500 deer to the Wisconsin Venison Donation Program, amounting to over 52,000 pounds of ground venison.

The donated venison provides a welcome source of food for needy families and the deer harvested helps move the herd closer to healthy population numbers.

You can donate legally harvested deer from outside the Chronic Wasting Disease Zone at a participating processor by January 10, 2011. All meat is distributed through local food pantries.

To donate a deer and help feed needy people follow these steps:

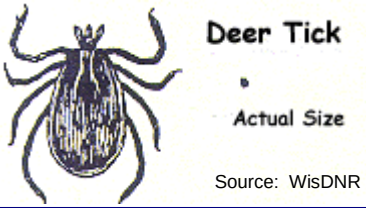
- Field dress and register the deer.
- Contact a participating processor before dropping the deer off.
- Donate the entire deer to qualify for free processing.
- Sign the log sheet at the processor.

Thank you for your interest and good luck hunting!

**Participating Processors:**
Country Fresh Meats, Weston
715-359-1311
Custom Meats, Marathon
715-443-3734
Dayland Meats, Athens
715-257-9956
Schlafke's Meats, Spencer
715-659-3930
Smith Brothers Meats, Colby
715-223-2777
Zillman's Meats, Wausau
715-845-5123
Pinter's Packaging, Dorchester
715-654-5444

# Lyme Disease

Dale Grosskurth, Health Department




Source: WisDNR

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria transmitted by a deer tick. Ticks must be attached for 24 hours to transmit the disease. Symptoms may start as a circular reddish rash around or near the tick bite, which expands in size over days or weeks. Other symptoms may last several weeks and include fever, headache, fatigue, stiff neck, muscle and/or joint pain.

Treatment involves antibiotics which are very effective if treated early.

Precautions to protect yourself: Avoid wooded and tall grass areas; use DEET-containing repellants according to label instructions; wear long pants and sleeves, tuck pants into socks or boots; check for ticks on yourself, children, and pets after being outdoors.

If you find one, remove it with tweezers as close as possible to the skin and pull upward and out with a firm and steady tension. If tweezers are not available, use fingers shielded with tissue paper or rubber gloves as the tick may contain infectious fluids, disinfect the bite site, and wash hands. Call a doctor if there is a concern about incomplete tick removal.

# Eastern Lakes Project

Shawn Esser, Conservation, Planning & Zoning

Marathon County CPZ, in cooperation with the UW-Stevens Point, received, a Lake Management Protection Grant through the WDNR. The grant project includes 11 lakes in eastern Marathon County including Bass, Big Bass, Lilly, Lost, Mayflower, Mission, Mud, Norrie, Pike, Rice, and Wadley lakes.

The project is to classify each lake by assessing algae, zooplankton, aquatic plants, nutrient levels, fisheries, shorelands, sediment cores and conducting a cultural survey of landowners on and around the lakes.

The information collected will be used to develop lake management plans to protect and improve water quality, fisheries, and habitat in and around the lakes.

Anyone interested in this project should attend the kickoff meeting scheduled for Monday, November 15, 2010 at the Reid Town Hall. Attendees will be introduced to some of the UWSP researchers and government officials that will play a role in the project. They will also get a general overview of the project with a timeline and be asked to provide input on the lakes themselves.

# Community Connections

Marathon County CPZ
210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

Nonprofit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #186
Wausau, WI

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Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040
Health: 261-1900
Highway: 261-1800
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550
Solid Waste: 446-3339
UW-Extension: 261-1230

The Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee provides guidance on policies and strategies that balance, protect and enhance environmental and community resources through cooperation with all levels of government.

We're on the Web!
www.co.marathon.wi.us

**Did You Know?**

Having split from the Town of Knowlton in 1909, Guenther is one of the youngest towns in Marathon County.
At just 111 years old, Guenther is still just a young 'un!

## Community Gardens—A True Community Effort

Diane Wessel & Ali Wolf, Women in Action

You may have noticed the gardens between the county buildings on River Drive. Here's the "dirt" on what they are all about:

UW-Extension was awarded a grant to construct the gardens. Staff conducted workshops demonstrating square foot gardening, a method that utilizes spacing, growing habit, time to harvest, and light requirements of the plants to maximize harvest.

The project included staff and volunteers from UW-Extension, Marathon County Solid Waste, North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition, Women In Action (United Way), Master Gardeners, and local families.

Compost bins: $45
Kitchen pails: $25
Marathon County Solid Waste
Please call ahead: 715-446-3101

Marathon County Solid Waste donated compost bins and kitchen pails. Staff collected compostable kitchen scraps from their lunches and morning coffee, which was transferred to the compost bins. Not only will the material be diverted from a landfill, but will be used to enrich the garden soil!

North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition donated rainbarrels to collect stormwater from the buildings to water the gardens. Capturing the runoff reduces soil erosion and flooding. Plants like rainwater better than tap water and using it reduces water consumption from area utilities.

Area families used the gardens to grow food for their families. Excess produce was donated to area food pantries.

**And best of all….** In the process of educating the families about how to grow and tend their gardens, they gained the confidence and skills that they can take with them forever. The experience provided a time for the families to work together and produce and consume fresh and healthy food options.

We hope to continue and expand the project in years to come!