



Maplewood Gardens-Elderon, WI

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## Private Sewage System Maintenance – Property Transfer Proposal

Dale Dimond, Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning

Marathon County administers a maintenance program for POWTS (Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems) installed after July 1, 1980, which requires property owners to have their POWTS maintained every three years.

In 2000, changes to the state code made property owners responsible for maintenance of all POWTS, regardless of age.

Rather than attempting to inventory thousands of POWTS installed before July 1, 1980 and add them to the maintenance program

at one time, a property transfer program has been proposed.

This proposal would require an evaluation of an existing POWTS before transfer of property ownership. If an existing POWTS passes inspection, it would be added to the maintenance program. If it fails and must be replaced, the replacement system would be included in the maintenance program.

The property transfer program would place emphasis on public health & groundwater protection by identifying and replacing failing POWTS, rather than

arbitrarily requiring maintenance of all POWTS. It would gradually expand the maintenance program, reducing the impact on workload and budget. It would also provide valuable protection for property buyers.

Draft ordinance revisions will be presented to the Land Conservation & Zoning and Environmental Resources Committees, and interested groups (plumbers, realtors, etc.) later this year.

If you have any questions concerning this proposal, contact Dale Dimond at (715) 261-6028.

## Nutrient Management Planning Rules

Mike Wildeck, UW-Extension & Andy Johnson, Conservation Planning & Zoning

Marathon County Land Conservation and Zoning Committee sets regulatory policy for livestock producers with a dairy waste storage facility. The policy balances the protection of surface and ground waters while utilizing this resource profitably.

The ordinances require nutrient management plans for animal waste and commercial fertilizer application for operations with:

- 500+ animal units and a livestock facility license
- a waste storage facility (lagoon)

The plans specify the location, timing, and rate of nutrient applications to cropland. The plans are approved and monitored by CPZ. Nutrient management standards education is available through UW-Extension.

### Special points of interest:

- Nutrient Management Plans: (715) 261-6002 or (715) 261-1239
- Survey marker relocation for road construction: (715) 261-6025
- Bridge and Culvert Aid: (715) 261-1809
- Comments? Questions? Suggestions? Guest contributors? Call (715) 261-6042 or email [diane.wessel@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:diane.wessel@mail.co.marathon.wi.us)

# Responsible Units and Effective Recycling Programs

Meleesa Johnson, Marathon County Solid Waste

Wisconsin's 1995 Recycling Law grew from the landfill disposal prohibitions of the late 80s and early 90s. Starting with items such as appliances, lead-acid batteries and tires, the list of materials disallowed from landfilling eventually grew to include a wide variety of paper fibers, and most food and beverage containers. Developing, implementing and enforcing programs to collect these materials fell to local units of government called Responsible Units of Recycling (RUs).

Today there are over a 1060 RUs in Wisconsin, with 63 RUs in Marathon County. Regardless of geographic size or population, each RU has the statutory and regulatory responsibility to conduct an

"Effective Recycling Program." Chapter 287.11 and NR544 detail the following eleven criteria of an effective program.

- Public information/education program;
- Recycling ordinance;
- Collection system for single and 2-4 unit homes;
- A system for processing and marketing recyclable materials;
- Equipment/staff to implement a recycling program;
- A requirement for recycling at all non-residential (businesses) and multi-family facilities;
- Prohibitions against disposal of recyclable materials;

- Enforcement of program provisions;
- A "Compliance Assurance Plan"
- Submit annual report to DNR;
- Strategies to reduce the amount of recyclables entering disposal sites.

From developing educational materials to designing a Compliance Assurance Plan, meeting all facets of an Effective Recycling Program can seem overwhelming. The Solid Waste Department has resources available to assist with your Effective Recycling Program. Please call us at:

(715) 446-3339



## 9th Annual Electronic Roundup Coming

John Schlicher, Marathon County Health

This year's roundup is scheduled for Wednesday September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, 301 Alderson Street, Schofield from 9:30 until 3:30.

All of your electronic products will be accepted at a reasonable cost of 25¢ per pound. Console TVs cost \$15, regardless of size. We accept Visa, MasterCard, check, cash or Company Purchase Order.

We will also be accepting original printer cartridges for Therapy Dogs of Central Wisconsin and cell phones for the Special Olympics.

Last year's roundup brought in nearly 50,000 pounds of defunct electronics. Over 99% of the material collected is recycled or reused. Businesses, schools or others with more than 20 units please call ahead: (715) 693-7123

**Hazardous waste will not be accepted during the Electronic Roundup.**

Guaranteed data destruction certificates available upon request.

Questions? (715) 261-1900

***Come see us on the 17<sup>th</sup>!***

## Swimming Beach Water Quality

Ken Krueger, Marathon County Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

Water quality testing will not be performed at Marathon County's public swimming beaches located at the Big Eau Pleine, Big Rapids, Cherokee, Eau Claire Dells, Mission Lake and Sunny Vale County Parks this summer.

Water quality conditions can change between the time a sample for bacteria is taken and when the

results are available. This time lag makes test results unreliable for beach users. Instead, information about possible unsafe conditions will be posted at all locations.

Rainfall of 1/2 inch or more may cause an unsafe level of bacteria for 24-48 hours. Water that is cloudy, looks like pea soup, or has floating clumps may contain Blue-

Green Algae, which can produce toxins harmful to people or pets.

If these conditions exist, do not swim or swallow water, or allow your pets to swim or drink the water.

For more information:

(715) 261-1900



Photo from WIDNR

## County Bridge Aid

Jim Griesbach, Marathon County Highway Commissioner

County aid is available to construct or repair town culverts and bridges equivalent to 48 inches or larger. Municipalities must submit an application to the Marathon County Infrastructure Committee (formerly Highway Committee).

Two options are available:

- 1) Municipalities submit their application in July of the year prior to culvert installation. If the application is approved, Marathon County will do all of the work including ordering the culvert, permits, additional materials, and installation, and then bill the municipality for ½ of the project.
- 2) Applications are due April 1st of the year of installation. If the application is approved, the municipality can do the work themselves, hire a contractor or have the county do the work. It is the obligation of the municipality to acquire all permits. By September 1st the municipality requests reimbursement for ½ of the total cost from the county which will be received in March of the following year. For budgeting purposes, municipalities may want to submit the applications as early as October 1st for sizing.

For more information on the County Bridge Aid Program and application process, call: (715) 261-1809



## GREAT Software Update Available

Mary Kluz, UW-Extension

The latest version of the GREAT (Graphing Revenues, Expenditures And Taxes) software is now available, free to local government, at the Marathon County UW-Extension office. This software offers an easy way to retrieve local financial data and compare between units of government.

The GREAT software packet includes a pocket guide, set of tutorials covering the major functions of the software, resource guide, and instructions on using each property tax template. The property tax templates will be available on the UW-Extension Local Government Center website, along with supplemental materials.

Contact Mary Kluz, Community Resource Development Educator with questions or to request a copy of this software. Kluz can be reached at (715) 261-1241 or [mary.kluz@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mary.kluz@ces.uwex.edu).



## Legislative Spotlight—Clearinghouse Rule 07-100 Revisions to Comm 81-87 Wisconsin Administrative Code

Dale Dimond, Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

Among proposed changes to state private sewage system regulations is a provision requiring an inventory of every septic system in the county and mandating that property owners have these systems pumped and inspected every three years.

Marathon County is opposed to this proposal because it would put an unnecessary burden on our resources without a significant benefit to groundwater or public health. We believe that there are more effective alternatives available to address failing sewage systems and expand the maintenance program, such as the property transfer proposal discussed on page 1.

Legislative Committees have sent Clearinghouse Rule 07-100 back to the Department of Commerce for "unspecified modifications" and the clock on legislative consideration of the rule has stopped.

# Community Connections

Marathon CPZ  
210 River Drive  
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

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

Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040  
Health: 261-1900  
Highway: 261-1800  
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550  
Solid Waste: 446-3399  
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](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us)

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Permit #186  
Wausau, WI

## We Need Your Help!!!

**Emily Pierce, Conservation, Planning & Zoning**

Many survey monuments on roads or in ditches are unknowingly destroyed during road construction. Corner markers are typically in the road and vary from stone, concrete, or cast-iron monuments, rebars, iron pipes, or even nails. Witness monuments are typically iron pipes or rebars near the right-of-way line near green or white channels (usually with a metal plaque or sticker). If any of these survey monuments are in danger of being destroyed, contact the County Surveyor, Chester Nowaczyk at (715) 261-6025.



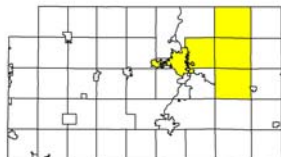
## Neighborhood Connections

### Joint Training for Ground and Air Spirit Transportation

Dean Johnson, Town of Wausau Fire Department

55 Firefighter and Emergency Medical Personnel from 6 different Fire Departments came together to start their training on using Ground and Air Spirit Transportation, a valuable resource that Saint Joseph Hospital has to offer out of Marshfield.

On June 4, 2008 members of Easton, Ringle, Hewitt, Town of Wausau, and City of Wausau met at the Town of Wausau Town Hall to learn how to properly dispatch, safely set up landing zones, and load patients.



On June 11, 2008 the second portion of the training was completed. A mock drill was designed to set up a landing zone and Air Spirit landed at St. John's Church in Easton where practice patients were loaded into the helicopter while it was still running or "HOT". It was an experience that won't be forgotten.

Aspirus Hospital has scheduled training with their MedEvac (Air Transportation) with this same group for July 16<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. This will give the departments training on 2 very valuable resources in time critical care for patients.

For more information:

Aspirus-Medvac  
Sharon Thorpe  
(715) 847-2163

St Joseph-Spirit  
Deb Martin  
(715) 389-7956

