

Outagamie County LCD Grant Administration



Sarah Wichman

Program Assistant



My name is Sarah Wichman, and I have been working with the Outagamie County Land Conservation Department for seven years. I started as an intern working with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and over the years, I gradually added grant administration to my role and became the Program Assistant for the department.

Grant administration is a job that is done behind the scenes. The engineering technicians and agronomists are the ones out talking to the landowners, encouraging volunteer adoption of best management practices funded by the grants we receive. What landowners probably don't realize is all the work that goes on in the background identifying, writing, and obtaining grants. My job is essential in keeping track of the department's grants. I make sure all the finances are in order and we are reimbursed by the grants. With the multiple tasks involved with every grant we receive, along with following Uniform Grant Guidelines, my position is critical managing all of the ins and outs of a specific grant. By working as a team, I am able to ensure timely reimbursements, accurate accounting, and on schedule reporting while the technical experts are able to focus on landowner relationships, providing knowledge, and installing practices.

I currently coordinate twelve grants, which total over \$8 million. These grants include Plum and Kankapot Targeted Runoff Management (P&K TRM), Upper Duck Targeted Runoff Management (Upper Duck TRM),

Upper Duck Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Upper Duck GLRI), Apple Creek Targeted Runoff Management (Apple TRM), Apple Creek Area of Concern (AOC), Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program 1 (GLSNRP 1), Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Program 2 (GLSNRP 2), Fund for Lake Michigan, Riparian Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Riparian GLRI), Wrightstown Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Wrightstown GLRI), Dissolved Phosphorus Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Dissolved P GLRI), and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

Many of the grants are watershed based meaning practices can only be installed in a specific watershed; for example, the Apple Creek Watershed. There are some grants that only have a few landowners who are paid throughout several years, and other grants have multiple different people installing a variety of practices.

Many of the grants have project periods of only few years, so we are continually applying for new grants. These new grants can be a continuation of projects from our older grants or can be something completely new such as an innovative practice. The future of our department's grant administration is continuously changing. It's an exciting time to be involved in conservation! If you are interested in learning about our current grants, you can call our office at 920-832-5073.

