

Conservation Engineering Program

Engineering assistance is a critical component to properly designing and installing conservation practices on the land. These conservation practices are necessary to meet state statutory requirements. County staff from the land conservation department are often the primary providers of planning, design, and construction oversight for state and local conservation efforts.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) employs engineers and engineering specialists to provide technical support and engineering assistance to county staff. The ultimate goal is to help each land conservation department become self-sufficient in meeting landowner needs in their county. The level of technical expertise within each county varies, which means that the level of support provided by DATCP's conservation staff also varies. The engineers employed by DATCP provide key functions to county staff throughout the state, including:

- Design assistance
- Training
- Engineering certification
- Development of technical standards and design tools
- Planning assistance
- Construction oversight

The state's engineering staff is located in five offices across the state to better enable them to provide timely local assistance. If a LCD is in need of technical support, or technical training, it should not hesitate to contact the conservation engineering section staff in their area.

As LCC members, it is important for you to recognize the work that your land conservation department staff does, and that this work is supported by staff from DATCP. In addition, it is your responsibility to understand the process for entering into contracts with landowners when the funding is through DATCP's Soil and Water Resource Management Program (see Soil and Water Resource Management Program handout).

Statutory References

Wis. Stats. 92