

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at the STEM Innovation Center, 2019 Technology Way, Green Bay, WI 54311.

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**Present:** Chair Norb Dantine, Vice Chair/Citizen Rep Stan Kaczmarek, Supervisor Amanda Chu, Supervisor Tom Friberg, Supervisor Dave Landwehr, Supervisor Ray Suennen  
**Also Present:** County Conservationist Mike Mushinski, Extension Director Judy Friedrichs; Supervisor Dave Kaster

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**I. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantine at 5:30 p.m.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor to Supervisor Friberg approve. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of March 23, 2021.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Friberg to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public.** None.

**Land Conservation Department**

**1. Budget Status Report for February 28, 2021 - Unaudited.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Chu to receive and place on file. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. Director's Report.**

**a. Resolution in Support of Achieving Base Funding Goal for County Conservation Staffing.**

County Conservationist Mike Mushinski noted this was the sample resolution they talked about last month which was put into proper format. It gets to supporting the \$15 million dollars in base funding for County Conservation staff in the state, meeting that statutory goal in the state.

Dantine pointed out an extra "the" in the paragraph that starts NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: "LCD professionals are the among the best..."

Responding to Chu, Mushinski informed the water quality bills started two years ago and COVID stopped everything. Generally, they haven't been doing resolutions for state funding but with the Water Quality Task Force, there was such a passion statewide to get more funds. Kaczmarek informed there were 13 bills that went through and passed through the Wisconsin State Assembly with bipartisan support. They got to the Senate and that's where they stayed. Some bills will be put in the Governor's budget, some you don't know where they'll end up. Mushinski stated if they get the resolution by out by the end of May, they were in good shape and it will have a different. Timing was perfect to show support for Brown County.

**Motion made by Vice-Chair Stan Kaczmarek, seconded by Supervisor Tom Friberg to approve with the grammatical amendment. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. AIS Brown County Highlights.**

Mushinski informed Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance was working with five counties, including Brown, and there was some funding through DNR to hire a coordinator for all those counties. There are no county funds, they would be housing that person and coordinating their efforts with them. A handout was provided re: Aquatic Invasive Species Program 2020 Highlights (attached).

**c. Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development Position in Brown County.**

Extension Director Judy Knudsen spoke to their Fork Farm Unit and informed it was a great joint project and worked really well. They were growing herbs (cilantro and basil) right now for the Airport. This was part of their STEM Innovation Center Seed to Table Initiative. A handout was provided (attached), in which Knudsen and Mushinski spoke to.

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Chu to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Other**

**3. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. (None).**

**4. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Vice Chair Stan Kaczmarek, seconded by Supervisor Friberg to adjourn at 5:45 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein  
Administrative Coordinator

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM  
2020 HIGHLIGHTS

# Brown County



## BAIT SHOP INITIATIVE

Partnered with local bait shops to supply AIS Prevention materials and messaging;

- Three bait shops in Brown County joined the Initiative
- Bait shops trained to serve as local AIS knowledge resource
- Increased local knowledge of AIS Program as a resource

## VIRTUAL TRAININGS AND OUTREACH

In spite of COVID-19, the Regional AIS Program safely:

- Held 7 virtual trainings for 29 volunteers
- Produced 2 AIS educational videos, one focused on Phragmites
- Wrote/Distributed 21 AIS articles
- Presented AIS prevention information at 4 virtual events



## OTHER PROJECTS

Other AIS work completed in Brown County during 2020;

- Coordinated a citizen scientist monitoring event at 5 locations
- Assisted newly forming cooperative invasive species management area (NEWIP)
- Trained and coordinated volunteers for East River AIS Monitoring
- Delivered waterfowl hunting AIS prevention messaging at Deerfield Docks
- Conducted inspections of AIS signs at 5 lake access points
- Coordinated activities with Wardens, County staff, and other state partners
- Sampled for AIS at boat launches

FOR FULL 2020 AIS PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTACT:



Chris Aey  
5 County Regional AIS Coordinator  
chris@fwwa.org

VISIT [FWWA.ORG](http://fwwa.org) TO STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS!

# STEM Innovation Center Seed to Table Initiative

The Seed to Table Initiative aims to cultivate a healthy and just food system through development and demonstration of sustainable agriculture practices, and food education to enhance the health of our environment as well as of residents living in Northeast Wisconsin.

Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department and University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Brown County (Extension Brown County) have a long history of working on issues related to sustainable agriculture practices, food production, and healthy eating.

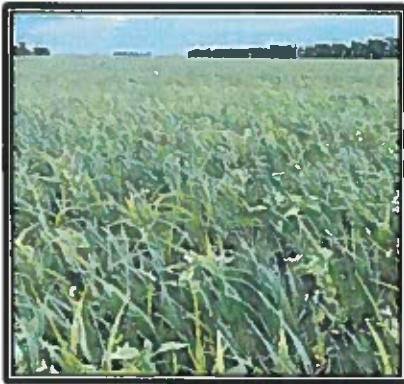
- The Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network (“Fox Demo Farms”) is a [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\)](#) project designed to showcase and demonstrate cutting edge conservation practices that improve Great Lakes water quality by reducing phosphorus entering Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The partnership is the first of its kind in the Great Lakes region and it consists of eight producers within the Fox River Basin, their crop consultants, Brown and Outagamie County Land and Water Conservation Departments, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.
- For over 20 years, Extension’s community garden program has offered community members rental garden plots for a nominal fee to raise culturally appropriate, healthy and affordable produce. Currently, the program provides 370 plots on 12 garden sites throughout Brown County, all of which were rented for the 2020 growing season. Approximately 70 percent of participating gardeners self-identify as low or moderate income.
- Extension partners with the Green Bay Packers Give Back program and sixteen local food pantries to encourage local growers to donate garden produce to pantries through their Planting for a Purpose initiative. These donations increase the availability of fresh produce, which often is in short supply but high demand at pantries.
- In 2018 and 2019, the Brown County Community Gardens program partnered with organizations working with youth in foster care to offer a teen farmers’ market program each summer. Through weekly sessions, participating youth learned how to maintain a garden, while also participating in hands-on sessions on marketing, business, nutrition, and financial management. The summer culminated in teens selling their produce at local farmers’ markets.
- Starting in 2020, Extension participated in the All-America Selection (AAS) edible trials. AAS winners are plant varieties that are “Tested Nationally and Proven Locally” for garden superiority by horticulture professionals across North America. Extension created and managed a 14,000-square-foot garden that serve as the only AAS trial site for vegetables in Northeast Wisconsin.

Extension Brown County and Brown County Land and Water Conservation will provide leadership in the development of indoor and outdoor educational areas at the STEM Innovation Center focusing on sustainable agriculture practices and food education for all ages. Phase one proposed projects, to be implemented started in Spring 2021, are listed on the following pages. Phase two projects will be implemented in the future.

## Phase One Projects



**Hydroponics** – In the high-traffic gathering area of the STEM Innovation Center two Fork Farms vertical agriculture technology units will be set up to grow greens hydroponically. Greens will be donated to local food pantries. Signage will be available to explain concept of hydroponics. Extension has two units that will begin production in early 2021.



**Cover crops** – A demonstration area will be established to feature alternative forage crops farmers in Brown County are utilizing to reduce sediment loss and enhance soil health. Alternative forages can also serve as alternative crops that may offer options for dairy farmers in need of forage.



**Garden Pollinators Demonstration Garden** – This garden will attract pollinators including bees, butterflies, and other insects necessary for vegetable gardens and fruit trees. Much pollinator habitat has been lost. Native plants will be utilized in the garden, as these are the preferred pollinator garden plants because they are already adapted to the local environment. Information on these plants will be available for individuals interested in adding pollinator plants to their landscaping.



**Gardening in Small Areas** – With more people renting or having limited green space, vertical gardening is growing in popularity. Various types of low-cost vertical gardening will be highlighted.



**Gardening Classes** – A variety of classes will help people of all ages to enhance their gardening skills. In addition to outdoor gardening classes, other classes will be held, e.g. hydroponic class for youth where they will receive supplies to build a simple home hydroponics unit for growing produce indoors.



**Food Education** – Hands-on classes for all ages will be offered in the Nutritional Sciences Kitchen located in the STEM Innovation Center. In 2021, Extension will offer some virtual classes and, when the pandemic subsides, in-person classes highlighting how to prepare produce grown in Northeast Wisconsin.

### Phase II Projects

- Workforce training for low- and moderate- income individuals interested in learning and/or enhancing their gardening and employability skills.
- Gardening classes for kids.
- Showcase use of technology in caring for the environment e.g. Microsoft FarmBeats.
- Seed to Table events to educate public about importance and benefit to environment of eating locally.
- New Edible Varieties – Extension Brown County participated in the All America Selection (AAS) edible trials in 2020. AAS winners are plant varieties that are “Tested Nationally and Proven Locally” for garden superiority by horticulture professionals across North America. A garden at the Brown County Farm served as the only AAS trial site for vegetables in Northeast Wisconsin.
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- 3D EnviroScape Watershed/Nonpoint Educational Model Hands-on, interactive demonstration of the sources and effects of water pollution. Easily demonstrate how storm water runoff carries pollutants through the watershed to a pond, lake, river, bay, or ocean – and the best management practices to prevent this type of pollution from occurring. The overall watershed/stormwater concept is effectively communicated to all ages (children to adults)