

ERICA SCHMITZ

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Town of Dunn

2008 – Present

Land Use Manager/Deputy Clerk Treasurer/Assistant Business Manager

Dane County, WI

Manage and implement all local farmland preservation and land conservation programs and efforts including the nationally-recognized Purchase of Development Rights Program

- Build relationships and identify shared goals with a diverse range of farmers and landowners and implement their farmland preservation and land conservation objectives through the best-matched programs.
- Engage and grow community support for a mature land preservation program
- Spearhead adapting existing programs to respond to changes in the agricultural economy
- Manage and supervise all aspects of real estate transactions for the rural preservation program
- Negotiate, draft, and execute conservation easements and other supporting legal documents
- Provide program outreach: tours, university guest lectures, conference presentations and media materials
- Secure federal, state, and county-level grant funding to implement program goals

Engage in policy change at all levels of government

- Establish and foster relationships with elected officials and staff at the county and state level to collaborate on changes in state and regional regulations to support land conservation and farmland preservation
- Attend and testify at public hearings at the local, county, and state level on behalf of Dunn
- Review and track county, state and federal legislative initiatives and draft staff reports and memoranda including detailed analysis and recommendations for local elected officials and staff
- Follow the legislative and budget process and advocate for key programs at the state and federal level

Develop and implement local policy initiatives

- Engage community members, draft language, and guide the visioning process to update the Comprehensive Plan and Parks Plan
- Draft and rewrite a variety of ordinances including the Parks, Land Division, and Subdivision Ordinances
- Coordinate outreach to develop and grow grassroots support for a variety of initiatives
- Secure grant funding to support implementation of local plans including parks acquisition and improvement grants

Advocate for Dunn's interests in regional land use, water resources, transportation, and sustainability planning efforts, including:

- Capital Region Sustainable Communities Partnership: regional planning and sustainability effort bringing together communities, local businesses, community organizations and citizens to create a shared vision for regional sustainability and implement key projects including a Food Hub, Public Market, and transportation improvements connecting housing and employment centers
- Yahara WINS adaptive management project: first project nationwide to use an adaptive management approach for phosphorus reduction and to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) thresholds
- Technical Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan Planning Organization's regional bicycle plan and two large-scale regional transportation corridor studies (Beltline and US 51 corridors)
- A joint Future Urban Development Area planning process with neighboring municipalities – won American Planning Association award

Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy)

2008

Transfer of Development Rights Intern

Seattle, WA

Engaged policy makers, conservancy members, and community leaders to generate support for Transfer of Development Rights initiatives and policies

- Initiated and fostered relationships with landowners, developers, municipal and county government officials
- Advocated for legislation by preparing "one-pager" briefings, maps, and letters of support for policy makers
- Identified potential demonstration projects; visited and evaluated development rights sending and receiving sites
- Researched and compiled existing legislation and comprehensive plans supporting local TDR initiatives
- Reviewed and provided comments on white papers on a range of topics including affordable housing

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EDUCATION

Master of Science: Urban and Regional Planning, Ecological Land Use Specialization

University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 2008

Planning Workshop: *Jefferson County Agricultural Preservation Report*: Author, 2007

- Won planning document award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Plan was subsequently adopted by Jefferson County and implementation continues

Water Resources Management Practicum: *Adaptive Restoration of Eastern Arboretum Wetlands*: Researcher, 2007

- Collaborated with Professor Joy Zedler and the Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum to produce an adaptive restoration plan for two urban wetlands in the context of the watershed, including conducting hydrologic and vegetative assessments

Bachelor of Arts: Environmental Studies; Minor: Women's Studies

Luther College, May 2006

Senior Thesis: *Women as Farmers in Sustainable Agriculture*, November 2005

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Disease Information Node (now Wildlife Data Integration Network), Program Coordinator, 2006 – 2008

GIS Analysis: Environmental Factors and Corticosterone Levels in Sage Grouse, GIS Specialist, 2006-2007

Town of Primrose, Wisconsin, GIS Analysis and Cartography for Comprehensive Planning Purposes, 2007

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Office, GIS/Water Quality Internship, 2005

Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Geologic Survey Bureau, GIS for STATEMAP Project, 2004

Student-Faculty Collaborative Research/Senior Honors Project, Fens and Groundwater Quality, 2003 - 2006

Luther College Writing Center, Writing Lab Director, Writing Mentor, 2003 - 2006

VOLUNTEERING AND MEMBERSHIPS

FairShare Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Coalition

REAP: Research, Education, Action and Policy on Food Group

Alumni Relations Council, UW-Madison Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, Founding Member

Dane County Farmers' Market

American Planning Association

Wisconsin Chapter – American Planning Association

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

Alpha Phi Omega: National Community Service Fraternity, Alumni Secretary

Wisconsin Student Planning Association