



(715) 726-7920  
www.co.chippewa.wi.us

711 North Bridge Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-1876

December 20, 2023

**WISCONSIN LAND+WATER CONSERVATION  
2023 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION EMPLOYEE AWARD  
NOMINATION INFORMATION**

1) Please provide the following information:

- Name, address and contact information (phone and email address, if available) of the nominee.

Joan Schemenauer  
711 N Bridge St, Rm 11  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-726-7920  
JSchemenauer@co.chippewa.wi.us

- Award category, county department name, title and years of service of nominee.

Outstanding Conservation Employee – Administrative Assistant Category  
Chippewa County Land Conservation Forest Management  
Administrative Assistant III

Joan has worked with Chippewa County for 40 years. She transferred to LCFM Department in 1996 and has spent the last 28 years in conservation.

- Education and background, past and present career responsibilities, level of professional knowledge and ability.

Graduated with an Administrative Assistant Degree from Chippewa Valley Technical College

- Name, address and contact information of the nominator.

Lynda Schweikert, Director  
711 N Bridge St  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-726-4590  
lschweikert@co.chippewa.wi.us

2) Summarize your entry in five sentences or less.

While I have only known Joan Shemenauer for a short time, her passion and enthusiasm for conservation can be felt immediately while working alongside her. As the first-person customers see when they enter our office, Joan puts forth a friendly helpful demeanor to assist in their requests. In addition to her administrative duties, Joan has been instrumental in the groundwater testing and tracking of long-term nitrate data in the county. Her dedication to the field of conservation is admirable and I feel should be recognized by the WI Land & Water Association

3) Tell us in 500 words or less how the nominee meets the award criteria and guidelines.

While I have only known Joan for a short time, her passion and enthusiasm for conservation can be felt immediately while working alongside her. When I came to Chippewa County, Joan anticipated my every need and helped make the transition an extremely smooth one. Her historical knowledge of the department, county and staff was invaluable and helped bridge the gap into my new role in the area.

Joan has been working as an Administrative Assistant for Chippewa County for 40 years, the past 28 in the LCFM Department. She is the first-person customers encounter when they enter our office and always puts forth a friendly, helpful demeanor to assist in their requests. She is a very dedicated employee and prioritizes the needs of customers and staff members each day. Oftentimes customers come into our office needing a different department or even agency. Joan tries to eliminate the run around by identifying who they actually need to see, calling those departments to ensure they are the correct place to go and giving directions on how to get there. The customers' needs are always important to her, regardless of their business.

Her knowledge of the county is invaluable. When planning meetings and outreach, she is the one we go to for space availability and catering options. When looking for ownership information, her ability to find contact information is unmatched. And when asking about past programs she knows right where to look for all the information.

To say that Joan is very detail oriented is an understatement. Her ability to identify a typo, format error or incorrect notation is uncanny. I am actually struggling in writing this nomination, because I cannot run this by her as I normally would for her final scan for grammatical errors. This is extremely important when dealing with public postings, agendas and proofreading ordinances. Don't get her started on ordinances. While she may not be the one to enforce the five (5) ordinances in our office, she is the only one who has read each one in its entirety and can tell you the history of their adoption. This has been incredibly helpful to know the "why" behind the regulations as I begin to implement them.

In addition to her administrative duties, she has been instrumental in the long-term groundwater testing and tracking of nitrate data in the county. One of the dreaded duties in the office is handing out water sampling bottles. While the practice is necessary, the process of explaining it to a customer is sometimes excruciating. Joan never complains, she treats each new homeowner with the same kind of enthusiasm as if it was her first customer as opposed to her 1000<sup>th</sup>. As I am writing this, I want to ask her how many water bottles she has handed out. I guess I will have to wait until after the awards ceremony.

Joan's dedication to the field of conservation is admirable and I feel should be recognized by the WI Land & Water Association

To whom it may concern,

Joan has been the backbone of Chippewa County conservation for what feels like forever. From the first interaction I had with her, many years ago, she was kind, helpful, and pleasant. She is the first person that countless others have been greeted by when they first decide to interact with Chippewa County Land Conservation. That initial interaction has been an enormous reason why the Department has been able to achieve so much while she has been there. She has the ability to start things off on the right foot with a wide variety of personalities.

She is always there, always helping, and never asks what is in it for her. She has deep roots in the community and she cares deeply about the land and the people of Chippewa County. I could list the many activities, accomplishments, or recognitions that the Department has received which Joan has been a major part of, or has solely been responsible for, but there are others that are better suited to list them out.

I got to spend almost 11 years working with Joan and I will always look back on that time fondly. I still make sure to go see her every time I am back in Chippewa. She helped me grow as a conservation professional and as a person. Because of that I will always be in her debt.

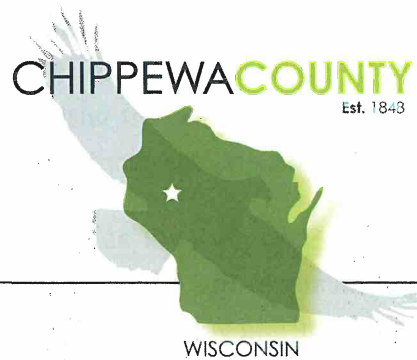
Joan is absolutely deserving of this award.

Seth Ebel  
Agricultural Engineer  
Dane County LWRD

**County Clerk**

***Jaclyn J. Sadler***

711 N. Bridge Street, Room 109  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
Phone 715.726.7985  
FAX 715.726.7987



**Deputy Clerks**

***Amanda Richardson***

715.726.7980

***Lisa Merrell***

715.726.7982

Thursday, December 7, 2023

TO: Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation

FR: Jaclyn J. Sadler

RE: Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Employee of the year, Administrative Assistant Category

Greetings,

I am writing in support of Joan Schemenauer for the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Employee of the year, Administrative Assistant Category. Not only is Joan incredibly knowledgeable but she is pleasant, friendly and filled with joy. Even on the hardest days Joan still finds a way to laugh and smile!

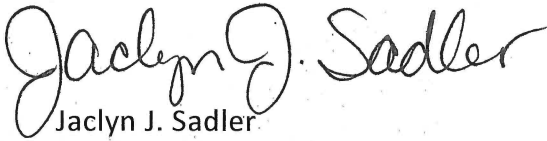
Joan has been an administrative assistant for 40 years with Chippewa County. An administrative assistant is the gatekeeper for a department and needs to know about each program, policy and happenings in a department in order to successfully help the residents of Chippewa County. For the last 28 years Joan has been the administrative assistant for Land Conservation and Forest Management. In order to be in the same organization and same position for that many years she must be doing something incredibly right! Joan's exceptional customer service skills, positive attitude and knowledge make her one of Chippewa County's most valuable employees.

In County government each County department reports to a committee of County Board Supervisors and each committee has a meeting clerk. For the Land Conservation and Forest Management Committee the meeting clerk is Joan Schemenauer. The committee is appointed every two years; which means it can be a revolving door of committee members. However, in Chippewa County the meeting clerk for the Land Conservation and Forest Management Committee has been consistent for 28 years. There is no one in Chippewa County that would have a better understanding of the history of the Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management Committee. Most of my interaction with Joan is through her work as the meeting clerk and I enjoy working with her. I work with each county committee and meeting clerk and Joan is one of the best! She is competent and confident in her skills when it comes to creating agendas and recording the minutes for the committee meetings. Joan is detail orientated and asks great questions when needed.

Not only is Joan an excellent employee but she is truly passionate about the conservation and management of the natural resources of Chippewa County. Aside from my professional daily interactions with Joan I have reached out as a Chippewa County resident with questions and Joan has always had the answer I needed or was able to put me in touch with the correct resource.

I hope you not only consider but award Joan Schemenauer as one of the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Employees of the year, specifically in the Administrative Assistant Category. I firmly believe that Joan demonstrates and exemplifies everything you are looking for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaclyn J. Sadler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jaclyn J. Sadler

Chippewa County Clerk

**State of Wisconsin**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Eau Claire Service Center  
1300 West Clairemont Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

**Tony Evers, Governor**  
**Vacant, Secretary**  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of Joan Schemenauer for the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Employee of the Year, Administrative Assistant category. As a colleague, I was employed at the Chippewa County Land Conservation Department (LCD) when Joan started as an Administrative Assistant in the 1990's. As my career has progressed, various jobs have required frequent office visits to the LCD. During both interactions, Joan greeted me with a friendly smile, was quick to help, and conducted business in a professional manner.

Joan started working for the LCD during a very dynamic period. Several large programs were being administered by the department (DNR Duncan Creek Priority Watershed, Farmland Preservation, county groundwater nitrate testing) that required in-depth knowledge of program specifics, extensive participant mailings, and detailed recordkeeping/reporting. She quickly understood the differences between these various programs and the required administrative work needed for each. Amid all this work, she also helped streamline and modernize these programs by transitioning from hard copy records to digital form. Not an easy task to start a new job and skillfully modernize existing program processes with staff you don't have much work experience with, but Joan did it well.

Joan brings a friendly and calming presence to the diverse and chaotic work demands of her position. Regardless of what her workload is for the day, she takes time to conduct business with walk-ins or phone calls. She is also very organized and is comfortable working both independently and in a team setting. These qualities allow Joan to build positive relationships with the public, farmers, conservation agencies (county land and water conservation departments, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection), and other Chippewa County staff.

The Chippewa County Land Conservation Department is truly fortunate to have Joan working to further conservation in the county during the past 20+ years. She is more than qualified to receive the Land & Water Conservation Employee of the Year, Administrative Assistant category.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Todd m. Prill'.

Todd Prill  
Ag Runoff Specialist  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



December 18, 2023

Lynda Schweikert  
Director of Land Conservation & Forest Management Dept.  
Chippewa County  
711 N. Bridge St  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Dear Lynda,

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of Joan Schemenauer for the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Employee of the year, Administrative Assistant award. As an Agriculture Educator with the Division of Extension University of Wisconsin – Madison in Chippewa County for the past 25 years, it has been an honor and privilege to work with Joan.

Over her many years with the Chippewa County Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management (LCFM), Joan has set an example of dedication and exemplary public service every public employee should strive to achieve. She is the first interaction farmers, residents, and clientele have with the department. Joan treats everyone who visits the department with respect, friendliness, and professionalism regardless of whether they are visiting the department for the first time, a returning client, county colleague, or county board supervisor.

Joan possesses the steady, professional, and consistent character needed for the issues and projects the LCFM addresses. She fully comprehends the personal needs of the client while balancing those needs with the unending support required for the staff of the LCFM to address those needs and issues. She understands the importance of water quality, land and soil conservation, forestry, and nutrient management and she is the first link to connect clients to the specific conservation professionals within the LCFM. The support she has provided over her career to the Chippewa County Water Quality Testing program has resulted in use of the data by water quality experts across Wisconsin and nationally.

Joan knows the importance of inter-departmental and agency collaborations. She cultivates positive relationships with staff from state and federal agencies and other county departments. I have worked directly with Joan for many years and needed her support as my programs within the Division of Extension often cross with the LCFM department. She annually helps me secure LCFM speakers for School Conservation Days and provides support for the Chippewa County FFA Land Evaluation Clinic. These programs are popular and successful with school districts across the county because of Joan's support and dedication to them.

Joan is a highly respected professional within Chippewa County as she effortlessly combines professionalism with a great sense of humor and light-heartedness. Her warm and welcoming personality along with her infectious laugh allows working with her and the connection with LCFM positive, fun, and rewarding.

**Division of Extension – Chippewa County**

Chippewa County Courthouse 711 N. Bridge Street, Room 13 Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729  
715-726-7950 [www.chippewa.extension.wisc.edu](http://www.chippewa.extension.wisc.edu)

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As a collaborative partner with the LCFM department, I have witnessed first-hand the positive influence, hard work, and unrelenting commitment Joan has provided to the people of Chippewa County and the LCFM department. Chippewa County is a better place to live and work because of Joan and she is highly deserving of the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Employee of the year, Administrative Assistant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Clark".

Jerry Clark  
Agriculture Educator  
Division of Extension  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire Counties