



Advisory Committee on Research Agenda

March 10, 2026

The Advisory Committee on Research (Committee) to the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will meet on March 10, 2026 at 9:00 am via Microsoft Teams. To attend the meeting, use the [following hyperlink](#) to register to the Teams meeting and receive the access link. The agenda for the meeting is shown below.

AGENDA ITEMS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 AM 1 Meeting Called to Order – **Ron Grasshoff, Committee Chair**
- a. Roll Call
 - b. Open meeting notice
 - c. Approval of meeting agenda
 - d. Approval of January 6, 2026 meeting minutes
- 9:05 AM 2 Discussion of Committee Logistics
- a. Review Committee Purpose and Outcomes
Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP and Katy Smith, DATCP
 - b. Future of the Committee
 - i. Meetings - Bi-monthly DATCP-supported meetings to conclude March 10, 2026
 - ii. Bylaw Revisions for December 2026
Ron Grasshoff, Chair and Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP
- 9:45 AM 3 Adjourn

*Ron Grasshoff, Committee Chair;
Vice Chair - Vacant*

*Members: Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, and Chris Clayton;
Advisors: Dr. Francisco Arriaga and Amber Radatz*

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
MEETING MINUTES**

**January 6, 2026
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Item #1 Call to Order – Roll call, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of November 4, 2025 Committee meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Advisory Committee on Research (“Committee”) to the Land and Water Conservation Board (“LWCB” or “Board”) met via videoconference on January 6, 2026. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ron Grasshoff at **9:10 am**.

Committee Members Present

Members: Ron Grasshoff, Brian McGraw (joined at 9:18), Monte Osterman, and Chris Clayton. A quorum was present.

Committee Advisors Present

Advisors: N/A

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Grasshoff motioned to approve the agenda with a correction (noted below), seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously.

Grasshoff corrected the agenda so that Agenda Item 3: Discussion of Committee Meeting Logistics (Future Meeting Frequency/Duration), was moved up to the Agenda Item #2, with the remaining agenda items to continue in the remaining order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the draft minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved minutes shall be posted as the official meeting record for publication on the LWCB website.

Item #2 Discussion of Committee Meeting Logistics (Future Meeting Frequency/Duration)

Ron Grasshoff opened discussion on future Committee meeting logistics and requested that Chris Clayton share updates regarding DATCP staff resource availability for the Committee.

Chris Clayton shared that DATCP would no longer be able to continue staff support for Committee after this meeting. Clayton noted that the November 4, 2025 Committee meeting realized a few

opportunities to carry out the Committee’s purpose to create, implement and oversee the process for the State of Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board to advise the University of Wisconsin System on research and outreach needs relating to soil & water conservation by: 1. Suggesting the LWCB add at least one question to Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans for Wisconsin counties to identify research needs and directly recommend research priorities to the UW System, and 2. Suggesting that the LWCB serve as a venue for partners to coordinate the creation of break-out sessions at conferences so that County Land Professionals can provide feedback to the UW System on research and education.

LWCB chairperson Mark Cupp was present for the meeting and requested that DATCP prepare an estimate on time allocation needed to prepare, run and maintain outreach for LWCB Advisory Committee on Research meetings, run and maintain them in the event the Committee made a motion to continue meeting without DATCP staff support.

A motion was not made at this time that outlined future Committee meeting frequency and duration. The Committee Chair Ron Grasshoff determined that this discussion will be a future agenda item for the March 3, 2026 meeting.

Item #3 Discussion of Committee Goals and Outcomes

Ron Grasshoff, Chair opened discussion on Committee Goals and Outcomes, with the main focus being on the following three recommendations noted at the November 4, 2025 Committee meeting. :

1. Amber Radatz’s suggestion that LWCB add a question to LWRM plan review and update materials that aims to identify research needs for direct formal recommendations to the UW System
2. Monte Osterman’s suggestion that LWCB work with break-out sessions at partner conferences in which County Land Professionals can provide feedback on research and staff education
3. The Committee continues to request stakeholder input via Soil & Water Conservation Research and Educational Needs Survey Report every 5 years

Regarding Recommendation #1, Chris Clayton noted that DATCP is able to assist in drafting a question to the LWRM plan review and update materials.

Ahead of the meeting, Kirsten Biefeld reached out to Amber Radatz separately to determine how UW-Extension would approach a potential question, leading to the following language:

What do you observe as gaps in understanding or research that hinder conservation progress or water quality improvement?

Part of the LWCB’s duties is to advise the University of Wisconsin system on needed research and education programs relating to soil and water conservation. The answer to this question will be used in research and outreach efforts by the University of Wisconsin.

Osterman shared a concern that county land conservation departments (LCDs) may misinterpret the question as presented above as a request for LCDs to review current research to find gaps instead of asking LCDs to share what research would aid their work.

Motion

Osterman requested a motion that the Committee recommends the Board to include two new questions in the planning documents for LWRM plan reviews and updates:

- A. A question edited by DATCP to reflect what counties are currently doing for research on L+W conservation issues
- B. A question edited by DATCP to reflect the counties desire for new and diverse research and education.

McGraw, second for motion with wish to discuss. Clayton noted that University of Wisconsin staff should be offered the opportunity to provide input regarding the two questions suggested above and have the Board fine tune the wording. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding Recommendation #2, Osterman shared that he reached out to Matt Kreuger regarding the potential for Wisconsin Land + Water Association to host a break-out session at the annual Land+Water Conference in which county land professionals can provide feedback on research and staff education. The 2026 conference schedule would not be able to accommodate this breakout session, it could be realized in a future conference schedule. There was discussion to bring this recommendation to the Board, but an official motion was not voted on.

Regarding Recommendation #3, the Committee notes that there is an existing set of resources, such as a list of potential stakeholders and data, from the previous 2023 Soil & Water Conservation Research and Educational Needs Survey. Chris Clayton discussed that DATCP would be able to continue support for another Soil & Water Conservation Research and Educational Needs Survey, if the Board determined there was a need for another survey in the future. Additionally, Clayton noted that UW and other applicable stakeholders should be consulted regarding appropriate timing for this survey, and what questions would be useful to stakeholders to elicit data for research needs.

There was discussion to bring this recommendation to the Board, but an official motion was not voted on.

Item #4 Member Updates with Possible Discussion

This item was not discussed.

Item #5 Planning for the next Advisory Committee meeting

The Committee should expect the following at the next meeting on March 3, 2026:

- Discussion of Committee Meeting Logistics

Item #6 Adjourn

Motion

Grasshoff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Osterman, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:29.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kirsten Biefeld, Bureau of Land and Water Resources
Division of Agricultural Resource Management
WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

- 3) Area meetings of the Wisconsin Land + Water if the board member has been invited to participate in the meeting in his or her capacity as a member of the Land and Water Conservation Board.

B. Prior Approval Required

Board members will receive per diem and expenses for attending any other meetings, other than those listed in Section VII.A, or activities, only if prior approval has been obtained from the board chair, with the concurrence of the ARM Division administrator.

VIII. COMMITTEES

The board shall set forth the composition of any committees it establishes, the areas or matters concerning which such committees shall advise the board, the specific duties and responsibilities the board expects them to perform and discharge, and such other matters as the board deems relevant to individual committees. Board advisors serving on a committee shall not vote on committee actions.

An executive committee of the LWCB Officers may meet as necessary to fulfill responsibilities of the LWCB.

A. LWCB Advisory Committee on Research

The LWCB Advisory Committee on Research purpose shall be to create, implement and oversee the process for the State of Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board to advise the University of Wisconsin System on research and outreach needs relating to soil & water conservation. The Committee will provide oversight of a sustainable, lasting process which involves all board members and advisor organizations as part of the normal agenda of the board.

The Advisory Committee on Research shall consist of no more than 5 voting members of the LWCB, whose terms shall be concurrent with their regular LWCB appointment. The committee shall include at least one board member elected under s. 15.135(4)(b)2., Stats., as a representative of county land conservation committees. New members may be appointed by the board chair in the event of a vacancy.

The Advisory Committee shall include at least 2 advisors, including the designee from the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the designee from the director of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and such other person(s) as the Advisory Committee chair may, from time to time, deem appropriate.

IX. REVIEW OF AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Bylaws shall be reviewed at the December meeting of even numbered years. These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by an affirmative vote of six members present at any regular meeting provided that notice of each proposed change hereof or addition hereto has been delivered personally, or electronically transmitted to each member at such address as the member shall have designated to the board, not less than 10 days prior to the time of meeting at which the proposed change or addition is to be considered.

X. STAFF ASSISTANCE