

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

**March 10, 2026
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Item #1 Call to Order – Roll call, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of March 10, 2026 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 March 10, 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 **9:07 am**.

Committee Members Present

Members: Ron Grasshoff, Brian McGraw, Monte Osterman, and Chris Clayton. A quorum was present.

Committee Advisors Present

Advisors: Dr. Francisco Arriaga and Amber Radatz.

Approval of Agenda

Motion

McGraw motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Osterman, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

McGraw motioned to approve the draft minutes of the January 6, 2026 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Osterman, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved minutes shall be posted as the official meeting record for publication on the LWCB website.

Item #2a Discussion of Committee Logistics

Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP, opened discussion reviewing the past five years of work the Committee has contributed to achieving its stated goals within the Board bylaws to create, implement and oversee the process for the LWCB to advise the University of Wisconsin System (UW System or UW) on research and outreach needs relating to soil & water conservation:

1. The Committee successfully solicited input from Wisconsin conservations stakeholders in a statewide survey in 2022-2023, the results of which were compiled in the [2023 Soil + Water](#)

[Conservation Research and Outreach Needs Survey Report](#) to Land and Water Conservation Departments, Conservation Stakeholders, and the UW system.

2. The Committee has successfully invited presenters to board to improve general education of the board on research regarding soil and water conservation.
3. The Committee has produced a recommendation to the Board with UW input to revise questions to the LWRM 5-year review and 10-year plan revision questionnaires that would directly solicit input from the counties to the UW System on research needs and goals.
 - a. With the information received in questionnaires, it is intended that the UW System will have ongoing feedback of research needs from Wisconsin counties to consider and act upon. This allows for a sustainable and lasting process involving all board members and advisor organizations as part of the normal agenda of the board.
4. If following a couple years of reviewing the County's questionnaires, the Board, in consultation with UW and available DATCP resources, should determine the need for this committee to prepare another outreach survey. This timing would align with the 5-year anniversary of the 2023 survey report.

Committee members noted overall agreement that the Committee has accomplished its purpose and goals with activities noted above.

Osterman expressed a concern that without regular meetings the Committee may not be able to provide oversight on the sustainable process, an aspect of the Committee's purpose. In response to this, the Committee suggests that review of the County's Land and Water Resource Management plan update and review questionnaire responses should be reviewed at on-going board meetings and that the responses regarding research needs be summarized and evaluated at the last Board meeting of each year.

In response to feedback received at the LCC session for the 2026 WI Land + Water Conference, Osterman proposed a third question, reflecting on what legislative barriers currently exist that would inhibit the county from completing LWRM plan goals.

McGraw noted that advising on needs for legislative change doesn't fall within the scope of identifying research needs, which the Committee is charged with. Board chairperson Mark Cup was also in attendance and noted that legislative initiative should be a part of the budget and a separate initiative from advising on research.

Item #2B Future of the Committee

Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP, reported that the Bi-monthly DATCP-supported meetings were to conclude with the March 10, 2026 Committee meeting.

The Committee concurred that the general purpose and goals of the Committee were met with the recommendation to the Board to add new questions to LWRM update and review questionnaire materials as discussed in the January Committee. The Soil & Water Conservation Research and Educational Needs Survey will not be replicated unless review of the research need responses and the Board, in combination with University of Wisconsin feedback and review of DATCP resources, determine another survey is needed.

The Committee proposed continuing on an ad hoc basis, suspending further meetings until determined necessary by the LWCB chairperson.

Osterman motioned to suspend future Committee meetings until determined necessary by the LWCB chairperson, McGraw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed Section VIII. *Committees* of the LWCB Bylaws and did not note any changes that required editing following the motion for the Committee to change from a standing committee to an ad hoc committee.

Item #3 Adjourn

Motion

Osterman motioned to adjourn, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

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