MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

April 5, 2016
DATCP Board Room
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of February 2, 2016 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Cupp, George Mika, Dave Solin, Eric Birschbach, Dale Hood, Lynn Harrison, Robin Leary (phone), Keith Foye, Caitlin Frederick, and Mary Anne Lowndes were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Kurt Calkins (phone) and Jim VandenBrook (WI Land + Water), and Eric Allness (NRCS, for Jimmy Bramblett) were present. Others present included Rodney Webb, Pierce County LCD; Brian Haase, Waupaca County LWCD; Andrew Craig, DNR; Richard Castelnuovo, Lisa Trumble, and Chris Clayton, DATCP.

Clayton confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

Hood moved to approve the agenda as presented, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried.

Mika moved to approve the February 2, 2016 meeting minutes, Solin seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Selection for 2016 LWRM plan revisions and 5 year reviews

Trumble reported that 21 counties will have come before the board in 2016 for LWRM plan revisions, extensions, or reviews. She provided the proposed 2016 schedule for LWRM plans to the board. Cupp commented that the schedule will fill meeting agendas in August, October, and December.

Item #4 Update on submission of annual work plans

Trumble reported that twenty-one counties have submitted annual work plans to date. She has helped some counties work though minor questions about the new work plans, including questions from northern counties about how to deal with parts of the work plan template that are the agriculture-focused. VandenBrook stated that WI Land & Water would solicit feedback on the new planning process and work plan, and report back to DATCP to discuss potential improvements.

The following issues were discussed: feedback from county staff about the new process, including complements for the DATCP staff; counties using this process to fulfill reporting requirements elsewhere; the need for DATCP, DNR, and the counties to work together to ensure work plans are useful and of high quality; the need to focus planning and reporting on critical watersheds; the usefulness of planning and feedback documents for reporting by DATCP to external groups, and in particular the legislature; and next steps. Castelnuovo stated DATCP

staff will hold a dialogue with the board, solicit feedback, document revisions, and communicate this to all concerned.

Item #5 Extension of DATCP-approved cost-share and cooperator projects from 2015 into 2016

Castelnuovo reported that the extension of DATCP approved cost-share and cooperator projects from 2015 into 2016 effectively amends the allocation for 2016. Approval of extensions enables DATCP to sign contracts with the counties and cooperators that include the funds approved for 2016 and funds extended from 2015 to 2016. DATCP recommended extending slightly over $2 million in cost-sharing and over $330,000 in cooperator and NMFE grants. Castelnuovo explained a number of items in the memo, including individual requests for extensions, fund amounts recommended to be approved for extension, and amount of unspent funds. He reported that counties are effectively using transfers and extensions to spend money, in addition to working with landowners to plan and implement projects. The board reacted favorably to the new graphics used by DATCP to depict the historic spending of funds.

The following issues were discussed: the length of time rules allow funds to be extended; details underlying individual extension requests; tracking of county spending; the fate of unspent funds including funds allocated in the grant year and those extended from the prior year, how spent monies help achieve the goals and objectives of the program.

Mika moved to approve the extension, Frederick seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #6a Recommendations regarding the biennial budget: Biennial budget process

Castelnuovo reported on the biennial budget process and the appropriations for nonpoint pollution control. The board had expressed interest in participating in the budget request process. Because agencies submit budget requests to the Governor's office by September 15 in even-numbered years, he pointed out that the board should consider timelines in the budget process. Castelnuovo also discussed the current biennial appropriations for staff and cost-share funding and base budget amounts.

Item #6b Recommendations regarding the biennial budget: Planning for gathering input from stakeholders and public on funding and annual grant

Cupp asked if the board's past statement on the budget, in 2014, represents the current board's view on providing input on the biennial budget. He read aloud the board's statement made in 2014.

The following issues were discussed: focusing the board's statement to support a state vision or plan for conservation and the amount of money needed to successfully implement land and water conservation to achieve specific outcomes; DNR's focus on critical watersheds, which gives priority to impaired waters; past decisions by the state on how to fund conservation.

Cupp asked if the board wishes to submit a general statement in support of land and water conservation. A motion was made to authorize the Chair to draft a letter, distribute it to the Board, and ask members to communicate directly with the Chair to provide comments. Birschbach moved to approve, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried. Foye, Frederick, and Lowndes abstained.

Item #7 Approval of county requests to extend Land and Water Resource Management Plan expiration dates by one to three years

Trumble presented information in support of Barron County's 3-year extension of its LWRM plan and LaCrosse County's 3-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Trumble reported on progress by both counties toward meeting their current plan goals and presented each county's updated work plan developed consistent with DATCP's new requirements.

Harrison moved to recommend approval of Barron County's and LaCrosse County's requests to extend Land and Water Management Plan expiration dates by three years, Mika seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #8 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Pierce County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Webb made a presentation in support of Pierce County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at DATCP's Land and Water Conservation Board website: www.datcp.wi.gov.)

Webb highlighted the county's progress in meeting planned goals and activities, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years.

Webb reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and the county submitted an annual work plan that covers planned activities consistent with new DATCP requirements.

The following issues were discussed: interest in the farmer led group active in Pierce County; increasing interest in no-till; and tracking activities and practices. Lowndes stated the DNR has hired a GIS analyst to build a tracking tool for BMPs and nutrient reductions around the state.

Solin moved to approve Pierce County's 5-year extension request as presented, Hood seconded, and the motion carried.

Lynn Harrison assumed the role of Chair with Cupp's departure from the meeting.

Item #9 5-year review of Waupaca County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Haase made a presentation in support of Waupaca County's 5-year review of its 10-year LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at DATCP's Land and Water Conservation Board website: www.datcp.wi.gov.)

Haase reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective. He highlighted the county's progress in meeting planned activities to meet the goals and objectives defined in its approved LWRM plan, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years. Haase also reported that Waupaca County submitted an updated annual work plan to capture changes in planned activities necessary to meeting the goals and objectives outlined in its 10-year LWRM plan.

The following issues were discussed: use and effectiveness of vegetated treatment areas to manage runoff; changes made to TRM grant applications; and the county's ability to adapt to challenges.

Mika moved to approve Waupaca County's 5-year review as meeting the board's criteria for 5 year plan reviews, Frederick seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #10 Agency reports

NCRS – NRCS shared its report in writing, and highlighted the following: April 1 is the midpoint of the FFY; NRCS is accepting applications for EQIP year-round; There is growing interest and demand for cover crops; Over 1000 applications representing over 1 million acres will be enrolled for CSP this year; Applications will soon be accepted for another round of RCPP applications.

WI Land & Water – Wisconsin Land & Water worked with Discover Media on a video telling the story of NPS pollution and its consequences. The video was shown to the board.

DATCP – Producer-led watershed council grant applications are due on Friday, April 8. So far, applications are from locations all over the state. DATCP needs to process the applications quickly to move forward to the next round of grant applications. The rule making process for ATCP 50 and ATCP 51 are moving forward. The scope statement for ATCP 50 focuses on incorporating the NRCS 590 nutrient management standard. Coreen Fallat was hired as the Land and Water Bureau liaison. There is an opportunity for CREP participants to re-enroll their lands. DATCP will be coming back to the board if there is a need to amend the CREP spending authority for each county.

DNR – The EPA completed a compliance audit on the CAFO program, including medium-sized farms. They determined that vegetated treatment areas do not perform well, and that meeting NRCS 635 standard does not meet the performance standard of zero discharge. DNR is working on a guidance document on how to get operators back into compliance, including scenarios for incorporating vegetated treatment areas into a zero discharge system.

Item #11 Planning for June 2016 Meeting – Lynn Harrison, LWCB

Given that the agenda for June now only includes two extension requests, there is a question about whether to hold a June meeting.

Item #12 Adjourn

Birschbach moved to adjourn, Mika seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

E D Bloch 8/2/16

Eric Birschbach, Secretary Date

Recorder: CRC, DATCP