

**MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**December 4, 2018
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 October 2, 2018 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Members Eric Birschbach, Carl Chenoweth, Pat Laughrin, Dave Solin, Lacey Cochart, Andrew Potts, and Mary Anne Lowndes were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Eric Allness (NRCS, for Angela Biggs) and Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water) also were present. Others present included Richard Castelnuovo, Lisa Trumble, and Chris Clayton, DATCP.

Clayton confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

The board made introductions, including the new board representative for DATCP, Lacey Cochart.

Solin moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Laughrin, and the motion carried.

Chenoweth moved to approve the October 2nd meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Dane County

Amy Piaget, Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, and Carl Chenoweth, Land Conservation Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the county's LWRM plan.

DATCP's review of the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Dane County Land and Water Resources Department provided written answers to the Board's standardized questions, recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB's website: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/LandWaterConservationBoard.aspx).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: the county's legacy sediment removal project; manure management in relation to privately owned manure digesters in the Yahara River Watershed; biogas generation from digesters; loss of farmland in the county; the county's method of conservation compliance; monitoring conservation compliance through the Farmland Preservation Program; medium-sized animal feeding operations; ordinance proposals to incorporate the state agricultural performance standards and certificate of use for manure storage structures; groundwater recharge; a shifting approach to conservation work from a holistic approach to a focus on phosphorus reductions; annual work planning.

Birschbach moved to recommend approval of Dane County's plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Solin, and the motion carried with an abstention by Chenoweth.

Item #4 Review of the LWCB Bylaws

Castelnuovo reported that the board last reviewed the bylaws two years ago, focusing its efforts on changes related to electronic means of communication. He stated that the proposed changes before the board address the following issues: the absence of LWCB advisors; board resolutions; flexibility in the location and timing of board meetings; additions or changes to board agendas; agency review and approval of board materials; handling of board press releases.

The board discussed the following: experience in reengaging long absent board advisors; retaining flexibility to adjust board agendas while ensuring proper notice; differences in DATCP and DNR internal approval of board materials; DATCP assistance with the distribution of board press releases.

Chenoweth moved to approve the bylaw changes as presented, seconded by Solin, and the motion carried.

Item #5 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Taylor County

Ben Stanfley, Taylor County Land Conservation Department, and Ray Soper, Land Conservation Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the county's LWRM plan.

DATCP's review of the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Taylor County Land Conservation Department provided written answers to the Board's standardized questions, recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB's website: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/LandWaterConservationBoard.aspx).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: targeted outreach through a mailing to priority farms and the subsequent landowner responses; use of the EVAAL model countywide to target priority farms; methods of monitoring conservation compliance and working with DNR to ensure compliance; landowner resistance to the work of the land conservation department; department staffing levels at the county; interest in agricultural field days; work to update the county's Farmland Preservation Plan; medium sized animal feeding operations; changes in agriculture in the county.

Chenoweth moved to recommend approval of Taylor County's plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Laughrin, and the motion carried.

Item #6 Comments on LWCB press release

Cupp reported on the press release and two comments received by the board.

Item #7 2019 LWRM plan revision schedule and management

Trumble reported that 19 counties are scheduled to present to the board in 2019. Because the board approved guidance in 2017 changing the requirements for board review of plan revisions, Trumble also

requested approval to discontinue the practice of including summaries from county LWRM plans with the materials sent to board members.

Birschbach motioned approval to streamline the materials required for presentations of LWRM plan revisions by eliminating a LWRM plan summary, seconded by Solin, and the motion carried.

Item #8 Approval of Proposed 2019 LWCB Annual Agenda

Clayton summarized the proposed 2019 annual agenda, and the board asked DATCP staff to look at holding the June meeting outside of Madison, possibly combining a shorter meeting with a tour of conservation practices.

Birschbach moved to approve the 2019 LWCB Annual Agenda with a deletion of the June meeting agenda item, “Gathering input from stakeholders and public on nonpoint funding,” seconded by Solin, and the motion carried.

Item #9 Agency Reports

NRCS – Allness reported on the status of a new Farm Bill which will increase the acreage enrolled in the grasslands program, continue the Conservation Reserve Program, remove industrial hemp from the list of controlled substances, and make lands growing industrial hemp eligible for federal programs. The new NRCS chief has been named.

WI Land + Water – Krueger reported on the upcoming county conservationist meeting and the plans for the association’s annual conference in March.

DOA – Potts reported that despite a new governor coming into office the agency budget requests have been submitted. The governor will propose the next state budget in February.

DATCP – Cochart reported that webinars to help train new LCC members are online, the annual nutrient management program update has been released, and the Livestock Facility Siting Review Board has made a final decision on a case in the Town of Ledgeview in Brown County.

DNR – Lowndes reported that applications for TRM and UNPS grants will be sent out in January with a special focus on the Silurian bedrock area in eastern WI, the DNR will present to the Natural Resources Board in January on implementation of the targeted performance standard, and the DNR is receiving requests for emergency spreading of manure broadly around the state.

LWCB Chair – Cupp presented Pat Laughrin and Carl Chenoweth with certificates recognizing their service to the LWCB.

Item #10 Planning for February 2019 LWCB meeting

- Two LWRM plan revisions (Vernon and Monroe Counties) and one five-year plan review (Wood County)
- CREP status update
- Election of 2019 officers
- Next steps for the board following endorsement of Food, Land and Water project goals
- Update on the Runoff Risk Advisory

Item #11 Adjourn

Solin moved to adjourn, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56am.

Respectfully submitted,



2/17/19

Eric Birschbach, Secretary

Date

Recorder: CC, DATCP