

**MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**February 5, 2019
DNR Board Room G09
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin**

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of December 4, 2018 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:02 a.m. Members Eric Birschbach, Sara Walling, Andrew Potts, and Mary Anne Lowndes were in attendance. Also, member Dave Solin was present by phone. 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.

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

Solin moved to approve the December 4th meeting minutes with one minor edit, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

Forest Jahnke, Crawford Stewardship Project, appeared before the board, thanking them for receiving an update on the Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study and expressing an interest in continued discussions on groundwater quality. Jahnke also provided written comments to the board.

Angela James, DATCP Assistant Deputy Secretary, and Elizabeth Kluesner, DNR Deputy Secretary, appeared before the board, pledging support from both agencies for the board and communicating the Governor's interest in pursuing policies to ensure access to clean drinking water.

Item #3 Election of 2019 Officers

The Board conducted an election of officers in the following order:

Cupp nominated Birschbach as Secretary, seconded by Solin. The LWCB closed nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Birschbach. Motion carried.

Cupp nominated Solin as Vice Chair, seconded by Potts. The LWCB closed nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Solin. Motion carried.

Birschbach nominated Cupp as Chair, seconded by Walling. The LWCB closed nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Cupp. Motion carried.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Monroe County

Bob Micheel and Christina Mulder, Monroe County Land Conservation Department, and Nodji VanWychen, Natural Resource & Extension 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.

Monroe 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: 2018 flooding events including PL566 dam breaches and negative impacts to recent streambank projects; private well testing; transect survey results showing increasing soil erosion rates over the last ten years; producer led watershed projects in the county; NR 151 compliance activities; updates to the county's manure storage ordinance; a county recommendation to the state to offer SEG funding for county staff dedicated to ensuring the adoption and implementation of Nutrient Management Plans (versus offering SEG funding for NMP cost-sharing); the county's decision to hire a land use planner; the utility of FPP as a tool to get farmers writing NMPs; the lack of Farmland Preservation zoning leaving the county to rely on AEAs for conservation compliance; the county's involvement in water quality trading; the county's steady support for the land conservation department and its work.

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

Item #5 Recommendation for Approval of 5 Year LWRM Plan Review for Wood County
Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Kenneth Curry, Wood County Chair of the Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the county's LWRM plan.

Wood County Land and Water 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: the county's wild parsnip removal program; county efforts to control additional invasive plant species; implementation of a TMDL that focuses on phosphorus and TSS reductions in the Mill Creek watershed; plans to apply for a TRM grant to do work in a nine key elements watershed; the county's participation in the Multi Discharger Variance program; county efforts to check conservation compliance and follow up with notices of non-compliance; the benefits of county partnerships with groups such as producer led watershed groups, other farmer groups, citizens, lakefront property owners, and municipalities; increases in adoption of NMPs and cover crops.

Solin moved to recommend approval of Wood County's 5-year review request as presented, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried.

Item #6 Update on the Runoff Risk Advisory
Mark Jenks, DATCP, presented information on the runoff risk advisory, including the goals of the advisory, data used to create the advisory forecast, use of the online advisory forecast, and the

evolution of the advisory forecast since its inception. He provided an overview to Version 2 of the Runoff Risk Advisory forecast and discussed future plans for the runoff risk advisory.

Board members and Jenks discussed the following: staffing requirements; data showing the number of users over time; plans to develop a mobile app; availability of previous forecasts, or past maps.

Item #7 Initial Groundwater Study Results in Grant, Lafayette, and Iowa Counties

Ken Bradbury, Director of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, presented initial results of a groundwater quality study occurring in three counties in southwest Wisconsin, including the study purpose and goals, area geology, historic groundwater quality sampling, study methodology, fall 2018 sampling results and comparison to statewide data and previous sampling in the area, a review of well construction, and next steps in the study.

Board members and Bradbury discussed the following: study design, including random sampling of wells and comparisons to a similar study completed in Kewaunee County; study funding; potential for similar studies in other counties; public response to the initial results; the need for more advanced hydrogeological studies in southwest Wisconsin; concerns over arsenic in groundwater; plans to finalize the study report in 2020.

Item #8 Overview of Food, Land and Water Project Goals Endorsed by the LWCB

Krueger provided an overview of the Food, Land and Water Project Goals and the board's endorsement of the goals related to surface water and groundwater quality. He also provided a non-comprehensive list of county-led groundwater efforts in the state, as well as the results from an online survey of county land conservation departments meant to help catalogue county-level groundwater efforts.

Board members and Krueger discussed the following: potential steps to follow up on the board's endorsement of surface water and groundwater quality goals, including expressing support for the Governor's efforts focusing on groundwater quality, hosting a forum on the groundwater quality issue or perhaps a broader topic, expressing support for a funding mechanism to help remediate contaminated groundwater in areas of need; the status of a proposed state bill that would increase landowner access to the well compensation program; identifying the amount of funding DATCP has to support a board forum; resending the board's letter to department secretaries to express support for funding of the nonpoint program – both cost-share and staffing.

Item #9 Agency Reports

NRCS – Allness reported that government shutdown did not disrupt funding of NRCS staff. The NRCS annual report will be made available soon. In 2018, WI NRCS delivered \$62 million to farmers through various conservation programs. NRCS is looking in the coming year to enter into grants and agreements with partners.

WI Land + Water – Krueger noted the upcoming Land and Water Conservation conference in Lake Geneva in March.

DOA – Potts reported that the budget will be released on February 28th in coordination with the Governor's budget address.

DATCP – Walling talked about the upcoming partner meetings between DATCP, DNR, and county LCDs. The Standards Oversight Council is coordinating a team to consider and establish a depth to

bedrock verification technical standard as part of the incorporation of the targeted performance standards into ATCP 50. The Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant program workshop will take place in February. The Livestock Facility Siting Technical Expert Committee is currently reviewing ATCP 51.

DNR – Lowndes reported that DNR is updating its general permit for stormwater management in MS4s. Applications for the Urban Nonpoint Source Planning Grants are due on April 15, 2019. The annual CAFO workshops are taking place around the state, and DNR staff will discuss practices related to the targeted performance standards and permit compliance.

LWCB Chair – Cupp reported on appointments to the board, including the need to fill two vacant seats and reappoint the seat currently held by Birschbach.

Item #10 Planning for April 2019 LWCB meeting

- Three LWRM plan revisions (Kewaunee, Vernon, and Rusk Counties)
- CREP status update
- Extension of DATCP projects from 2018 into 2019
- Written report on transfers and reallocations of 2018 cost-share funding
- Next steps for the board following the endorsement of surface water and groundwater quality goals, including holding and funding a forum
- Review of the proposed NR 154, BMPs and Cost Share Conditions

Item #11 Adjourn

Lowndes moved to adjourn, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Birschbach, Secretary

4/3/19

Date

Recorder: CC, DATCP