

**MINUTES**  
**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**June 2, 2020**  
**Skype Meeting**

**Item #1      Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of February 4, 2020 LWCB meeting minutes.**

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Members Eric Birschbach, Ron Grasshoff, Bobbie Webster, Mike Hofberger, Andrew Buttles, Monte Osterman, Brian Weigel, Sara Walling, and Andrew Potts were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Angela Biggs, NRCS, and Matt Kreuger, WI Land+Water were also present. Others present included Lisa Trumble and Katy Smith, DATCP.

Smith confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Weigel moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried.

Grasshoff and Webster requested corrections to Item 8: *Recommendation regarding SWRM allocation* of the February 4, 2020 meeting minutes to correct misspellings, as well as, document that a motion was passed for Item 8. Webster requested a correction to Item 6: *Gathering input from stakeholders and public regarding nonpoint funding* to revise basic sentence structure regarding the state allocation of tax revenue into the stewardship fund. Webster requested revisions to Item 10: *Agency Reports* to correct misspellings. Hofberger made a motion to approve the February 4, 2020 meeting minutes as corrected, seconded by Osterman, and the motion carried.

**Item #2      Public Appearances**

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No public appearance cards were submitted.

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

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Kurt Calkins, Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Mike Weyh, Agriculture, Extension, and Land & Water 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.

Columbia 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](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/LandWaterConservationBoard.aspx)).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: nitrate susceptibility and contamination in relation to groundwater monitoring in Columbia County, coordination with county highway department on aquatic invasive species, adaptive management practices for the City of Lodi, county's harvestable buffer contract, the development of a producer led council, status of Best

Management Practice Implementation Tracking System (BITS) in the county, use of performance standards to implement TMDL reductions, and tracking permitted manure storage facilities.

Osterman moved to recommend approval of Columbia County’s plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried.

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

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Heather Palmquist, Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Ken Saari, Land Conservation Committee Member, 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.

Iron 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](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/LandWaterConservationBoard.aspx)).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: stream restoration projects within the county, assistance with additional groundwater education in susceptible agricultural areas, expanding interest of the pollinator plantings and plant sales through volunteers, climate change impacts to the county, livestock facility siting, and grazing plans for grazing operations.

Hofberger moved to recommend approval of Iron County’s plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried.

**Item #5 Recommendation for approval of 5 year LWRM plan review for Iowa County**

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Katie Abbott, Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Department, and Dave Gollon, Land and Water Conservation Committee, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the county’s LWRM plan.

Iowa 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](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/LandWaterConservationBoard.aspx)).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: manure storage ordinance requirements, county plans to cost-share cover crops and funding for cost-sharing, shifts to non-operator ownership, land lease strategies to encourage investments in conservation practices.

Birschbach moved to recommend approval of Iowa County’s 5 year LWRM plan review, seconded by Hofberger, and the motion carried.

**Item #6 Climate Change Resiliency and LWRM Plans Discussion**

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The board discussed the status of incorporating climate change into county LWRM plans. The Wisconsin Land+Water Association will take a leadership role in facilitating the discussion on how counties can incorporate climate change in county plans. In order to gather multiple different perspectives, about 8 county conservationist have been contacted to gather their input. Grasshoff stated

he has a tentative action plan and noted this as an opportunity to collaborate with the State's climate change task force. Cupp stated he will prepare an action plan memo, tentatively, for the December LWCB meeting.

**Item #7 Recommendation for approval of 5 year LWRM plan review for Lafayette County**

Terry Loeffelholz, Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Manager, and Andy Schilling, Land Conservation Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the county's LWRM plan.

Lafayette 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](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/LandWaterConservationBoard.aspx)).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: county participation in Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), tracking systems to record location and volume of manure storage systems, septic system permits, and county contracts to deal with invasive species.

Walling moved to recommend approval of Lafayette County's 5 year LWRM plan review, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried.

**Item #9 Recommendation for approval of 5 year LWRM plan review for Oconto County**

Ken Dolata, Oconto County Conservationist, and Dennis Kroll, Land Conservation Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the county's LWRM plan.

Oconto 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](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/LandWaterConservationBoard.aspx)).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: nutrient transport in tile drain line as well as studying nutrient transport for another year, funding county staff devoted to nutrient management, NR 151 implementation in the county and county ordinances, and waterfront flooding issues.

Osterman moved to recommend approval of Oconto County's 5 year LWRM plan review, seconded by Walling, and the motion carried.

**Item #10 Gathering input from stakeholders and public regarding nonpoint funding**

The agenda item was postponed.

**Item #11 Lawns to Legumes**

Webster, LWCB, presented on the State of Minnesota Lawns to Legumes program. Lawns to Legumes is an educational, outreach and cost-sharing program that encourages residential and rural landowners to plant pollinator-friendly native plantings, as opposed to grass lawns. The board discussed this program, the DATCP Pollinator Protection program, and non-farm contributions to pollinator habitats.

**Item #12 Agency Reports**

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**NRCS** – Biggs reported that the NRCS is cautiously allowing staff to come back into the office. However, NRCS offices are not open to the public at the time of this meeting.

**WI Land + Water** – Kreuger reported that Dave Solin has resigned his position on the county board. Bob Mott will succeed Solin on the LWCB beginning with the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The board recognized and thanked Solin for his service to the LWCB.

**DOA** – Potts reported that the CARES Act and coronavirus relief fund will provide \$50 million in direct aid payment to farmers. The money will be processed through the Department of Revenue with assistance from DATCP. An additional and separate \$50 million in innovation grants is available for communities in need of commodities. DOA is working on next year’s budget, which shows potential for budget shortfall.

**DATCP** – Walling reported that UW Extension has finished county level agricultural impact reporting, however some counties were missing. The DNR has found funding to contribute to the AEM mapping survey, which will add Calumet County to the project area. The board discussed whether there is a way to integrate AEM findings with ground water studies.

**DNR** – Weigel discussed NR151 standards for nitrates and indicated that three meetings have been held to discuss new/revised standards. Announced that the DNR is working with UW-Madison on an agricultural economic study to examine the costs and benefits attributed to compliance with NR151 performance standards. Weigel informed the committee that DNR has developed a climate change team and is in the process of developing short term climate change actions, which includes program specific bounce back plans. Carl Gesch (Iowa soy bean Association) will be the agricultural non-point coordinator.

**Item #13 Planning for August 2020 LWCB meeting**

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The board should expect two 5-year reviews, and two full plans to be presented at the August meeting.

**Item #14 Adjourn**

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Grasshoff moved to adjourn, seconded by Walling, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bobbie Webster, Secretary

8/5/2020  
Date

Recorder: KS, DATCP