

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

April 7, 2015

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, roll call, approval of agenda, approval of February 3, 2015 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, John Petty, Caitlin Frederick, and Mary Anne Lowndes were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Kurt Calkins and Jim VandenBrook (WI Land + Water), Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS) were present. Others present included Paul Sebo, Washington County, Richard Castelnuovo and Lisa Trumble, DATCP.

Trumble confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed, as required.

The agenda was amended to move item #3 to a later meeting date when all members are present. Mika moved to approve the agenda as amended, Petty seconded, motion carried.

Birschbach moved to accept the February 4, 2015 meeting minutes, Frederick seconded, motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 LWRM Plan Review Criteria and Checklist

Item postponed as noted above and will be considered at a future meeting.

Item #4 Extension of DATCP-funded cost share and cooperator projects from 2014 into 2015

Richard Castelnuovo, DATCP, requested that the board recommend the extension of 2014 Bond and SEG grant funds for county cost-share projects and 2014 SEG grant funds for cooperators, including the University of Wisconsin-Extension, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, and Nutrient Management Farmer Education grants. DATCP will approve the exact amount of a county's extension request if the county has available funds and has not been reimbursed for the costs of the project. DATCP received 245 extension requests for bond projects, seven of which were reimbursed in 2015 leaving 238 projects to extend. DATCP received 343 SEG extension requests, 20 of which were reimbursed in 2015 leaving 323 extensions to approve. Attachments A1 and A2 of the Board memo include details concerning these extension requests, as well as a breakdown of extension requests for cooperator projects. It was noted during the discussion of this matter that three cost-share projects involving municipalities will be cost-shared at the 50% rate.

Frederick moved to extend the project funding into 2015 as requested including the extension of Bond and SEG grants for county cost-share projects in the amount of \$2,614,457.30. Mika Seconded. The motion carried.

Item #5 LWCB recommendations regarding the biennial budget

DATCP provided a memo to explain the Governor's recommendations for the 2015-2017 biennial budget.

Castelnuovo reviewed the memo. DATCP's bond authorization is unchanged at \$7 million for the biennium. County staffing grant was reduced by \$815,900 per year. Of the \$2.5 million in SEG funds previously appropriated for nutrient management and contracts, \$250,000 per year is being redirected to farmer-led watershed councils. DATCP must also take lapse from a yet to be determined SEG account. After the next biennium, the Farmland Preservation Program planning grant will be phased out.

For DNR; Lowndes discussed potential funding cuts for soft practice cost-sharing and urban planning, and expects that DNR will offer the urban planning only every other year. With the potential loss of \$770,000 funds used for basin educators and other programs, DNR may be able to retain funding for a St Croix County position, but it is not clear what else DNR could fund. Both the NRB and ATCP board are proposed to be made advisory only.

Discussion took place regarding the financial condition of the nonpoint and the environmental management accounts. There is less revenue coming into these accounts in part due to less tipping fees being collected. Frederick stated that a one million dollar transfer from Ag Chem Cleanup fund to nonpoint account is not unusual for a one time transfer. Bramblett stated that when there are state budget cuts they have a ripple effect on the expenditure of NRCS conservation funds. Approximately \$65 million a year in federal funding comes in to WI for conservation efforts. Local conservation staff are needed to help do the work. Cupp inquired where money for the WI River TMDL comes from. Lowndes stated that it currently comes from EPA but that may be changing to more in house funding for the WI River.

Item #6 Approval of County LWRM Plan Extensions

Lisa Trumble, DATCP, presented three year extension requests for the following counties: Lincoln, Monroe, Green Lake, Ozaukee, and Taylor.

Lincoln County stated the staff would like to work with the proposed WI River TMDL and would like to revise their plan when they have more information about the TMDL. Solin moved to recommend approval of the Lincoln County LWRM three year extension request, Petty seconded. The motion carried.

Monroe County requested a three year extension to allow for time to begin implementation of a Water Quality Phosphorus Trading plan with the city of Sparta and become active with the newly approved RCPP project with Sauk County. Mika moved to recommend approval of the Monroe County LWRM three year extension request, Petty seconded. The motion carried.

Green Lake County has a new federal program as well as a new county conservationist and needs time for the new staff to become familiar with the requirements of the plans. Birschbach moved to recommend approval of the Green Lake County LWRM three year extension request, Solin seconded. The motion carried.

Ozaukee would like time to incorporate the nine key elements into its plan. Frederick moved to recommend approval of the Ozaukee County LWRM three year extension request, Mika seconded. The motion carried.

Taylor County had staffing changes and would like time for new staff to become familiar with the plan requirements and processes. Mika moved to recommend approval of the Taylor County LWRM three year extension request, Solin seconded. The motion carried.

Item #7 Recommendation for Approval of Five-Year Extension Request for Washington County LWRM Plan

Paul Sebo, Washington County LWCD, presented the five year extension request. The LWCD is part of the planning and parks department. The county is considering merging planning and parks with other department to become a public works department.

Eight key water resource issues are addressed in the plan. Regarding work performed in the past five years, the county identified the following by category:

- I&E activities focused on youth and adults: 169 events have been held with 4960 people attending.
- Technical assistance: 26 conservation plans covering 6,188 acres; 131 NM plans on 42,032 acres; 68 BMP's installed. 2012 was the busiest construction season totaling \$1.5 million in expenditures.
- Conservation Compliance: 58 NR151 farm evaluations for a total of 282 evaluations. 75% are in full compliance. The county no longer has a farmland preservation program through zoning. There are only a handful of "old agreements". Ten whole farm compliance checks were made in 2014.
- Permits: 14 new manure storage permits, 6 abandonment permits, and 55 erosion control and storm water management permits issued, with inspections of 169 practices on 79 sites.

The county has a well water level monitoring program. Sebo noted the new "T" factors are causing problems, soils have gone from a "T" of 5 down to 2. He also noted that livestock operations are getting larger, and the county has six CAFOs. Birschbach moved to recommend approval of the Washington County LWRM 5 year extension request, Mika seconded. The motion carried.

Item # 8 Agency Reports

NRCS- NCRS submitted a written report. Bramblett noted that the SOC has released its draft 590 revision for public comment. Comments due April 30th.

WI LAND+WATER- VandenBrook reported that March 11th a number of resolutions were adopted at the annual business meeting. Producer led water protection grants are being discussed. Pierce, St. Croix, Dunn, and Polk are currently working with producer groups. Important to keep the LCD connection in the budget language. A meeting was held April 1 in Green Bay to discuss phosphorus issues in the lake. Over 150 people attended the meeting that was organized by Congressman Reid Ribble. Secretary Stepp and Russ Rasmussen were there from DNR and Bramblett from NRCS. New employee training will be held May 7 at DATCP.

Calkins commented that priorities have been set within the farmer led groups. Secretary Brancel has discussed the issue of counties knowing who is taking the FPP credits. A possible solution may be to add a line to the FC-A from.

DATCP- DATCP submitted a written report that included a copy of 2014 transfers from the NOD/NOI reserve. There have been positive comments regarding FPP tax claimants.

DNR-Lowndes reported DNR urban construction and TRM grant applications are due soon. Funding for the two grants are down to \$1 million. For counties with a TMDL the DNR has developed a model ordinance, it is posted on their website. An Adaptive Management/Trading manual is being developed. A webinar will be held on April 21st to review SNAP+ relations to Adaptive Management.

LWCB- Cupp has been in contact with the Governor's office and the new appointments director with regards to board appointments and is looking for a replacement for Caneff. Leary's term has expired and she has offered to continue until someone is found to replace her. Cupp asked the group to share names of persons who might have interest in an appointment.

Item #9 Planning for June 2015 Meeting

- Budget updates
- 4 plan extension requests
- Manure Irrigation task force report (June or August)
- WI River TMDL update (June or August)

The Board's June meeting may be a teleconference or if there are only a few items, the meeting may be postponed and the items carried over until its August meeting.

Item #10 Adjourn Meeting

Frederick moved to adjourn, Petty seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric Birschbach, Secretary 8/4/15
Date

Recorder: LKT