

**MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**August 4, 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, approval of agenda, approval of April 7, 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, Dale Hood, Lynn Harrison, Keith Foye (for John Petty), Caitlin Frederick, Pam Biersach (for Mary Anne Lowndes) were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Kurt Calkins (by phone) and Jim VandenBrook (WI Land + Water), Pat Murphy (for Jimmy Bramblett, NRCS) were present. Others present included Fay Amerson and Brian Smetana, Walworth County; Mark Watkins, Jefferson County LWCD; Tom Davies, Winnebago County LWCD; Chase Cummings, Pepin County LCD; Andy Johnson, Marathon County CPZ LCD, Richard Castelnuovo, Lisa Trumble, and Chris Clayton, DATCP; Linda Talbot, DNR.

Trumble confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

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

Solin moved to accept the April 7, 2015 meeting minutes, Frederick seconded, and the motion carried.

There was an update on member status. Harrison stated that his reappointment to the LWCB is pending decision by the Governor's office. Birschbach noted that his reappointment to the LWCB should be finalized soon. Cupp will keep the board apprised about filling other board vacancies.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Report on the preliminary 2015 DATCP and DNR joint allocation plan

Castelnuovo, DATCP, reported that the county staffing grant is down by \$140,000 compared to an annual appropriation in the last biennium totaling \$8.8 million. In general, reduced funding translates into less money for a county's second position. Regarding SEG cost-share funds, DATCP was directed to set aside \$250,000 for producer-led watershed councils. In the end, DATCP was not able to meet all cost share requests, but the shortfall was not significant. DATCP is waiting to hear if it has further responsibilities to meet lapse requirements.

Talbot, DNR, reported that reserves for planning and local assistance grants might change in September. DNR is hoping for more large-scale watershed management grant applications; there

are only two applications at this point. Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management grants are down to \$750,000 in bond funding per year in the biennium, compared to \$1 million, plus, previously. The Targeted Runoff Management grant award is down from previous years.

The following was discussed: the impact of reduced revenue from tipping fees on the SEG nonpoint account; the value of better quantifying the benefits of conservation practices; the need to build awareness in the legislature of how the funds are spent by conservation “boots on the ground”; DATCP and DNR actions to increase accountability including DNR’s new reporting form that requires modeling for sediment and phosphorus reductions; the prospects of funding nonpoint programming using funds from point source dischargers; the need for counties to diversify the funding sources used to support conservation programming; and the impact of growing debt service costs on current and future bond funding.

Item #4 Runoff Management Program; Targeted Runoff Management and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Grants

Linda Talbot, DNR, already reported on the DNR’s proposed scoring and ranking of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management (UNPS) project applications for CY 2016 funding.

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

Amerson and Smetana made a presentation in support of Walworth County’s 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at:
<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/LWCBWalworthCountyAug2015.pdf>)

Amerson 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.

Amerson reported that the county’s current farm priority strategy is effective, and the county submitted an updated work plan that covers planned activities during the five year extension period.

In response to questions, the county discussed a collaboration between the Lake Delevan association and farmers that has advanced to the point where the association will provide funding incentives to farmers to reduce runoff.

Mika moved to approve the Walworth County’s 5-year extension request as presented, Hood seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Jefferson County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Watkins made a presentation in support of Jefferson County’s 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at:
<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/LWCBJeffersonCountyAug2015.pdf>)

Watkins 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.

Watkins reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned goals and activities during the five year extension period.

The following issues were discussed: extensive coverage of nutrient management plans in the county, the county continuing to implement the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements program, reasons in the county behind non-compliance with agricultural performance standards, the value of the county's GIS tracking database, and the multi-agency response to Avian flu detection at three Jefferson County poultry farms.

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

Item #7 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Winnebago County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Davies made a presentation in support of Winnebago County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed both at:
<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/LWCBWinnebagoCountyAug2015a.pdf>
<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/LWCBWinnebagoCountyAug2015b.pdf>)

Davies 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.

Davies reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned activities during the five year extension period.

The following issues were discussed: an effort among counties in the region to identify and address public resource concerns, the Lower and Upper Fox/Wolf River TMDL processes, strengthening the county's Land and Water Management Plan and improving benchmarking by quantifying objectives as they relate to the county's planned goals, and the water quality practice of placing ponds on the ends of waterways.

Harrison moved to approve the Winnebago County's 5-year extension request as presented, Birschbach seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Cummings made a presentation in support of Pepin County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at:
<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/LWCBPepinCountyAug2015.pdf>)

Cummings 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.

The county pointed out its farm priority strategy, and Cummings provided an update detailing how the county plans to implement the new approach. In addition, he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned activities during the five year extension period.

The data from the county's transect survey shows most lands are meeting T, but there has been some increase in soil loss due to commodity prices having increased and subsequent increases in row crops.

Frederick moved to approve the Pepin County's 5-year extension request as presented, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #9 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Marathon County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Johnson made a presentation in support of Marathon County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at: <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/LWCBMarathonCountyAUG2015.pdf>)

Johnson 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.

Johnson reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective, and he submitted an updated work plan that covers planned activities during the five year extension period.

The following issues were discussed: the county's focus on citations and other options besides face-to-face contact to increase adoption of nutrient management plans, the role of the Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization in calling attention to water quality issues, and the importance of farmer participation in the discussion.

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

Item #10 Agency Reports

NRCS – The local workgroup process is wrapping up; 22 meetings and 500 participants, so far. Many local staff are asking that some funding shift from manure storage to land practice treatment. NRCS will process application rankings by October 2 and move the process forward. NRCS released the 590 standard revisions for comments, and there are 20 plus pages of comments. The revised 590 should position the state well for the next 10 years.

WLWCA – Regarding the state budget, staff funding and nonpoint grants were largely restored, but conservation non-profits were cut by \$1 million. The 590 standard revision shows that the Standards Oversight Council is a solid partnership. The DNR is working with WLWCA to partner with three municipalities along the Wisconsin River near Spring Green to work with farmers, trying and monitoring new practices - all to reduce nitrate levels in well water. Manure irrigation taskforce is ongoing. There might be merit in a legislative council study directed to study alternatives to achieve land and water funding.

DATCP – Secretary Brancel promised county drainage board trainings, and they will take place in September. Waupaca County is now certified for FPP. Final comments were received from the Livestock Siting Technical Expert Committee members regarding the committee’s final report, which will be forwarded to the Secretary soon.

DNR – Sorting through the budget and staff vacancies, the DNR is trying to maintain 11 field positions in agriculture; currently down to 7.5 positions; and one nonpoint coordinator vacancy. DNR is waiting to get lapse numbers from DOA. By late August or early September they will find out the budget situation. The Watershed Bureau is looking at a \$400,000 lapse, and there’s concern about the ability to fill vacant positions. DNR is going through a strategic alignment. The agency is reexamining the administrative reporting structure.

Item #11 Planning for October 2015 Meeting – Mark Cupp, LWCB

- Final SWRM allocation plan from DATCP.
- Five extension requests and one plan revision from Sheboygan County.
- Cupp requested to have a full day meeting in the future when the agenda has so many items.

Item #12 Adjourn

Harrison moved to adjourn, Mika seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Birschbach, Secretary

10/6/15

Date

Recorder: CRC, DATCP