

**MINUTES  
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**August 6, 2019  
Boardroom 106**

**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 June 4, 2019 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, Brad Matson, Ron Grasshoff, Dave Solin, Bobbie Webster, Brian Weigel, Sara Walling, and Andrew Potts were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Eric Allness (NRCS) and Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water) also were present. Others present included Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, Lisa Trumble, and Chris Clayton, DATCP.

Clayton confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

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

Potts moved to approve the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Webster, 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 Vernon County**

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Ben Wojahn, Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Will Beitlich, 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.

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

Board members and Vernon County representatives discussed the following: possible changes to the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) such as requiring conservation compliance for assessing agricultural lands at the current use-value rate; funding a groundwater study with Crawford and Richland Counties; utilizing FPP and the Producer Led Watershed Program as NR 151 compliance tools; the state of dairy farms in Vernon County and interest among new, younger farmers; interest in grazing; grazing as a means to greater resilience in the face of large storm events.

Matson moved to recommend approval of Vernon County's plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Walling, and the motion carried.

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

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MaryJo Gingras, Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department, and George Mika, 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.

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

Board members and Ashland County representatives discussed the following: local ordinances addressing agricultural performance standards, manure storage, and CAFOs; incorporation of climate data into the LWRM Plan; the need for further work with DNR to include additional water quality and NR 151 compliance information into the LWRM Plan; a board request to insert a narrative covering the topic of metallic mining within the county.

Weigel moved to recommend approval of Ashland County's plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried.

**Item #5 Report on 2020 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan**

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Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP, reported on the allocation amounts to the counties, the total dollar amount in the allocation as compared to the statutory goal (\$3.4 million shortage), and differences in the use of monies as compared with past allocation plans.

Lowndes, DNR, reported on bonding amounts in the allocation plan, an increase in the cap on small scale Targeted Runoff Management grants from \$150,000 to \$225,000, and Urban Nonpoint Source grant amounts in the allocation plan.

**Item #6 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Barron County**

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Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Soil and Water Conservation Department, and Russ Rindsig, 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.

Barron County Soil 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 Barron County representatives discussed the following: the thoroughness of the county's description of NR 151 compliance in the LWRM Plan; the need for a soil health position within the conservation department; cover crop incentive payments and their value to nutrient management plans; a board suggestion to implement a more robust information and education program in the county.

Grasshoff moved to recommend approval of Barron County’s plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Walling, and the motion carried.

**Item #8 Livestock Facility Siting Update**

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Clayton, DATCP, provided an update on the livestock facility siting rule (ATCP 51), including the department’s schedule for holding public hearings and receiving public comments on the draft rule.

**Item #9 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Oneida County**

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Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department, Bob Mott, Oneida County Conservation and UW-Extension Education Committee Chair, Karl Jennrich, LWCD / Planning & Zoning Department Head, and Fred Heider, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 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.

Oneida 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 Oneida County representatives discussed the following: partnerships with lake districts; good relations with local media; challenges with managing pollution from septic tanks and the county’s septic maintenance program; challenges posed by forest fragmentation; the need for further work with DNR to include additional NR 151 compliance information into the LWRM Plan.

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

**Item #10 Draft letter to Water Quality Task Force regarding nonpoint funding**

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Cupp presented a draft letter addressed to the Assembly Speaker’s Water Quality Task Force to voice support for increased funding to address nonpoint source pollution statewide.

Matson moved to approve the letter with additions, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried.

**Item #11 Agency Reports**

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**NRCS** – Allness reported that NRCS is providing funding for floodplain easements and annual local working group meetings are occurring statewide.

**DATCP** – Walling announced the addition of staff within the Bureau of Land and Water Resources, funding to hire a new staff person for the Producer Led Watershed Program, and updates on the industrial hemp program.

**DNR** – Weigel reported that the CAFO permit fees will be kept within the DNR, new positions will be added to the CAFO program, and DNR will begin the rule making process for targeted performance standards for nitrates.

DOA – Potts provided brief budget updates.

**Item #12 Planning for October 2019 LWCB meeting**

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- Five LWRM plan revisions (La Crosse, Douglas, Clark, Langlade, Marquette).
- Final allocation plan.
- Brief update on the livestock facility siting rule.

**Item #13 Adjourn**

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Birschbach, Secretary

10/25/19

Date

Recorder: CC, DATCP