

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2019
Room 3
Chippewa County Courthouse
711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of April 2, 2019 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:02 a.m. Members Eric Birschbach, Ron Grasshoff, Andrew Buttles, Dave Solin, Monte Osterman, Bobbie Webster, Brian Weigel, Sara Walling, and Andrew Potts were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Angela Biggs (NRCS) 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.

Chippewa County welcomed the board. The board made introductions, including new board members Bobbie Webster and Andrew Buttles.

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

Osterman moved to approve the April 2nd meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Walling, and the motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

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

Toni Reali, Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Pat Laughrin, Land and Water Conservation Committee Vice-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.

Calumet 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 Calumet County representatives discussed the following: public perceptions of groundwater quality issues due to karst bedrock; the high value of 'boots on the ground' to address surface water and groundwater issues; pros and cons of the NRCS 590 nutrient management standard in addressing water quality issues; the use of demonstration farms as a means to introduce farmers to conservation needs and practices; the county's need for a depth-to-bedrock verification standard to implement the targeted performance standards; county tracking of nutrient management plan

implementation; county partners and resources needed to develop 9 key elements plans; the loss of farms and agricultural lands in the county, especially dairy.

Walling moved to recommend approval of Calumet 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 Burnett County

Dave Ferris, Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Craig Conroy, Burnett County Natural Resources Committee, 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.

Burnett 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 Burnett County representatives discussed the following: methods to account for phosphorus loss reductions due to shoreline stabilization practices; county involvement in reclamation plans following non-metallic mining; regional partnership with other counties to control terrestrial invasive species; management of zebra mussel infestations in two lakes by containment; county efforts to help control aquatic invasive species.

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

Item #5 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Chippewa County

Dan Masterpole, Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management Department, and Dean Gullickson, County Land Conservation and Forest Management Committee, 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.

Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management 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 Chippewa County representatives discussed the following: efforts to create an Agricultural Enterprise Area in a priority watershed; efforts needed to stem the loss of dairy farms; the county's plans to use social media to increase outreach efforts.

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

Item #6 Agriculture-Related Risk Factors for Private Well Contamination in NE Wisconsin

Borchardt presented a summary of recent research results from a study in Northeastern Wisconsin that identifies agricultural-related risk factors for private well contamination. His research objectives included: 1) Estimate county-wide contamination rate for nitrate and indicator bacteria as related to depth-to-bedrock; 2) Determine source of fecal contamination using viruses and fecal markers; and 3) Identify risk factors for private well contamination using statistical models. One main finding of the study was that groundwater contamination decreases with greater distance from manure lagoons. Borchardt suggested that future research could look at factors for decreasing risks to private well contamination by modeling the addition of conservation practices.

Item #7 Board discussion on DATCP Secretary report on study of alternative funding sources and preparation of written testimony regarding the speakers task force on water quality

Cupp summarized the board's ongoing discussion related to the need to study alternative funding sources for the state's nonpoint program. Krueger reported on attending a recent symposium at UW-Stevens Point on alternative funding sources for conservation and observed that there were no clear outcomes nor direction forward as a result of those discussions. Cupp recommended that the LWCB develop written testimony for Representative Novak and other legislators on the state's Water Quality Task Force. The board discussed this recommendation and agreed to consider a draft letter at the August LWCB meeting that expresses the need to establish alternative funding sources to address specific soil and water conservations goals. The LWCB agreed to work with agency staff and Wisconsin Land + Water to gather the information necessary for identifying alternative funding sources that would generate revenue to accomplish specific tasks. Cupp set a deadline of July 1st for LWCB members to contribute any issues that will be placed in the draft letter, for board review at its meeting on August 6th.

Item #8 Agency Reports

Agencies provided written reports in lieu of oral reports to the LWCB.

Item #9 Planning for August 2019 LWCB meeting

- Preliminary Joint DATCP and DNR allocation plan, dependent on status of the state budget
- Four counties will present full LWRM plan revisions to the board

Items #10-12 Travel to Arrowhead Farms for lunch

The LWCB traveled to Arrowhead Farms for lunch and heard the following presentations at Arrowhead Farms:

- Dave Johnson and others of Arrowhead Farms gave an overview of farm operations with a focus on nutrient management and irrigation practices. Chippewa County LCFMD staff and consultants provided additional information.
- Kevin Masarik from UW-Stevens Point reported on groundwater quality in Wisconsin, including local approaches, results, and next steps.

Item #13 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

E. P. Birschbach

8/6/19

Eric Birschbach, Secretary

Date

Recorder: CC, DATCP