

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

June 1, 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of April 6, 2021 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Mark Cupp, Eric Birschbach, Bobbie Webster, Monte Osterman, Andrew Buttles, Ron Grasshoff, Andrew Potts, Brian Weigel, Lacey Cochart and Sara Walling. A quorum was present.

Advisors present: Ian Krauss (FSA), Angela Biggs (NRCS) and Matt Krueger (WI Land+Water)

Department staff present: Lisa Trumble, Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, Kim Carlson, Susan Mockert, Coreen Fallat, Katy Smith, Rosalie Powell, Alec Martin, Bart Chapman and Zach Zopp (DATCP).

Zopp 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 unanimously.

Grasshoff made a motion to approve the April 6, 2021 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried unanimously.

Grasshoff requested grammar and spelling corrections to Agenda Item #3, *Administrative Rule Revision Process and Upcoming ATCP 50 Revision* and Agenda Item #16, *Planning for June 2021 LWCB Meeting*. Webster requested that Agenda Item #4, *Correspondence Regarding Marathon County LWRM Plan Approval*, paragraph two, be revised such that the word “legality” be changed to “legal basis of the Marathon County resident’s concern”.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 The Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for Numbering Watersheds

Brian Weigel, DNR and Angela Biggs, NRCS, presented to the Board an overview of the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for numbering watersheds. The presentation provided during the meeting is available online at the LWCB’s website lwcb.wi.gov under **2021 Meetings** for June 1.

The Board discussed the following: the intent of HUC codes; using the USGS SPARROW model to determine nutrient loading across a watershed, nutrient loading amounts and targeting nutrient reduction efforts; how SPARROW model nutrient predictions are affected by cover cropping.

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

Todd Jenson, County Conservationist, Tonya Gratz, Soil Conservationist and Austin Loeffelholz, Conservation Technician, Green County LWCD and Kristi Leonard, Land and 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.

Green 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: lwcb.wi.gov).

The Board and county representatives discussed the following: changing dynamics of dairy herds in Green County; reasoning for declining farmland preservation program participation; possibility of forming an Agricultural Enterprise Area; rationale for not participating in the 9 key element plan; successful outreach activities.

Osterman moved to recommend approval of Green County's plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously

Item #5 Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update for Forest County

Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information / GIS Director, Forest County LWCD and Larry Sommer, LCC member, made a formal presentation updating the Board on the County's LWRM plan.

Forest County Land and Water Conservation Department provided the Board with recent work plans and accomplishments, and other materials (available on LWCB's website lwcb.wi.gov).

The Board and county representatives discussed the following: the presence and types of aquatic invasive species; implementation of the county's climate change field guide; changing dynamics of tree species within the county; National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) technical grant award; adequacy of staffing levels within the Land and Water Conservation Department; establishing a future goal to obtain SEG funding from DATCP; how the county is addressing and funding high lake levels within Lake Lucerne

Webster moved to recommend that Forest County is meeting its 2017 obligation to demonstrate implementation of its LWRM plan by pursuing reasonable conservation strategies and practices, including the promotion of accepted conservation practices and effective use of cost-sharing, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #6 LWCB Annual Agenda Discussion on 2022 Grant Applications Agenda Item

Mark Cupp, LWCB and Zach Zopp, DATCP presented to the Board the history of the *Grant Applications* agenda item, scheduled on the LWCB Annual Agenda every June. The Board was advised of their duties under Wis. Stat. § 92.04(2) to review annual grant allocation plans and review joint allocation plans. The Board was advised their duties to Wis. Stat. § 92.04(2) are met with the following annually reoccurring August LWCB Annual Agenda items:

- 1) *Presentation of [Yearly] Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan*
- 2) *DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY [Yearly]*
- 3) *DNR Presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY [Yearly]*

Zopp discussed the history of the annual agenda item in June starting in 2017. The board acknowledged that the agenda item may have been unique to circumstances in 2017 and that “Grant Applications” will be removed from the annual agenda for the June meeting beginning with the 2022 annual agenda.

Item #7 An Overview of the Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Bart Chapman, DATCP, Standards Oversight Council Chair, presented to the Board a video introducing the Standards Oversight Council (SOC), its’ roles and responsibilities. A short question and answer session followed the video. The video presentation is available online at LWCB’s website lwcw.wi.gov under **2021 Meetings** for June 1.

The Board discussed the following: how standards are selected and prioritized; the process to review Federal and State standards; the bi-annual survey conducted by SOC; the uniqueness of Wisconsin’s state oversight council for standards; opportunities for political and public involvement within the SOC process and the transparency of the SOC process.

Item #8 LWCB Website Overview and Revision Discussion

Zach Zopp, DATCP gave the Board a brief overview of the LWCB website. An open discussion followed regarding potential ways to revise the LWCB website.

The Board and agency representatives discussed the following: adding a link on the LWCB website to the existing DATCP Land Acknowledgment Statement.

Item #9 The Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report (written report only)

Coreen Fallat, DATCP notified the LWCB Board the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report will be published in early June. The memo addressing the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report is available online at the LWCB website within the June 1, 2021 [meeting packet](#). A copy of the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report is now available online on LWCB’s website under [Wisconsin Report on Soil and Water Conservation](#).

Item #10 Agency Reports

FSA- Ian Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

NRCS – Angela Biggs submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

UW CALs & UW Ext- Dr. Arriaga submitted a written report indicating that UW and UW-Extension is preparing to resume in-person activities.

WI Land + Water- Matt Krueger reported: the County Conservation meeting will be held virtually on July 15th and 16th; the December meeting is projected to be in-person; Vernon County will be hosting

Conservation Observance Day in August; the WI Land + Water Board is looking at what can be done to support equity and inclusion within the agency.

DOA – Andrew Potts reported: the Governor’s budget is still under deliberation by the legislature; County Conservation staffing dollars for climate change works has been removed from the budget; the PFAS budget was removed; the hydrologic general restoration permit has been removed and is now going through legislature on separate track; the DATCP and DNR Environmental Improvement Fund will be taken up on 6/2/21.

DATCP – Sara Walling submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 [meeting packet](#). In addition to the written report, Sara reported: the Gypsy Moth spray program is active for the next 3 weeks on the Western border of gypsy moth zone; Eau Claire and Richland Counties recently added to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine zone; the hemp program is initiating a new emergency rule and has noticed a significant decrease in participation in 2021.

DNR – Brian Weigel submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the June 1, 2021 [meeting packet](#).

Member Reports – Mark Cupp reported that he met with Lisa Trumble, Katy Smith, and Zach Zopp (DATCP) to discuss the LWCB’s transition back to in person meetings.

Item #11 Planning for August 2021 LWCB meeting

In addition to the items identified in the proposed 2021 annual agenda, the Board should expect the following at the August meeting:

- Two LWRM plan revisions (Pierce and Waupaca Counties)
- One LWRM plan five year review (Brown County)
- Post-pandemic planning for in person and virtual LWCB meeting attendance
- No June 2021 LWCB agenda items will be carried over to August 2021

Item #12 Adjourn

Grasshoff moved to adjourn, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,



8/4/2021

Bobbie Webster, Secretary

Date

Recorder: ZZ, DATCP