

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

April 2, 2024
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of February 6, 2024, LWCB meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met over Microsoft Teams on **April 2, 2024**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at **9:00 am** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Members and Advisors Present

Members: Mark Cupp, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Andrew Buttles, Katy Smith for Robby Personette, Andrew Potts, and Chris Clayton for Jill Schoen. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Christina Anderson (WI Land + Water), Ian Krauss (FSA), Dave Gundlach (NRCS), Amber Radatz (UW Extension)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Cupp requested to take up agenda item 5 before agenda item 2. McGraw motioned to approve the agenda as revised, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Potts motioned to approve the February 6, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved minutes shall be posted as the official meeting record for publication on the LWCB website.

Item #5 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates & Bylaw Revision

Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP, discussed updates from the March 5th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Research including a review of the Committee’s work plan; McGraw volunteered to serve on Advisory Committee on Research in a limited capacity; the Committee will reconvene on July 2nd, 2024.

Smith, DATCP, discussed a proposed bylaw revision the committee recommended at its January 9th meeting. Osterman clarified that his recommendation for the bylaw change was to require one member of the committee to be filled any WI Land + Water member, including but not limited to association staff, Land Conservation Committee Representatives or County Staff- the original intent of the recommendation was not to limit committee representation to LWCB members elected under s. 15.135(4)(b)2., Wis. Stats. Smith indicated that agency staff would consult DATCP Office of Legal Counsel surrounding Board authorities to appoint non-Board members to Committees and their

eligibility to vote. After a discussion between the Board and Committee representatives, Osterman motioned to send bylaw revision back to the LWCB Advisory Committee on Research, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Ashland County

MaryJo Gingras, County Conservationist, and George Bussey, Land Conservation Committee Vice-Chair, and Charlie Ortman, Land Conservation Committee Member, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

The County 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).

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of Ashland County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Buttles, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Clark County

Jim Arch, Clark County Conservationist, and Fritz Garbisch, Land Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

The County 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).

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, McGraw motioned to recommend approval of Clark County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Buttles, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #6 Extension of DATCP Projects from 2023 into 2024; Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2022 Cost-share dollars

Katy Smith, DATCP presented on the extension of DATCP Projects from 2023 to 2024 and a written report, available within the [April 2, 2024 meeting packet](#), on transfers and reallocations of 2023 cost-share dollars.

Motion

Buttles motioned to approve the extension of DATCP Projects from 2023 to 2024 as presented, seconded by McGraw. The motion carried.

Item #7 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Barron County

Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Conservationist, Dave Gifford, Director of Land Services, and Randy Cook, Land Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's 5-year LWRM plan review.

The County 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).

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and County representatives, Buttles motioned to recommend approval of Barron County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Clarke, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #9 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Gundlach submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Gundlach reported Josh Odekirk is still Acting State Conservationist; Ryan Gerlich recently started as Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships; there are 3 Notice of Funding Opportunities and 3 National Agreement Opportunities including Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production available through grants.gov
- c. UW Madison- Extension- Radatz reported: [Dr. Malika Nocco](#) has joined the Biological Systems Engineering Department to work on water quantity issues; the [Wisconsin Rural Partnerships Institute](#) has funded 2 UW CALS Projects: *Preparing Wisconsin's rural communities for amplified weather conditions* and *Improving Central Sands groundwater quality to ensure a vibrant future for agriculture, rural living and surrounding ecosystems*; Discovery Farms is working on water quality monitoring in Kewaunee County and will be adding an element for bioreactors; the [Agriculture Institute](#) at Extension is very close to being fully staffed.
- d. WI Land + Water- Anderson reported with April 2nd being election day, County Board supervisors are up for election, looking forward the association will focus on training new Land Conservation Committee members around the state; WI Land + Water will be [adjusting the timing of elections for association representatives to the LWCB](#); the association had a successful annual conference with over 500 attendees in early March.
- e. DOA- Potts previously reported that DNR submitted a s. 13.10 request to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) to access \$125 million dollars approved under the state 23-25 biennial budget to address PFAS contamination. The DNR withdrew their initial request and resubmitted a request to more closely align with legislative prerogatives; the legislative session is now over and won't resume until January.

- f. DATCP- Smith submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- g. DNR- Clayton submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 2, 2024 [meeting packet](#).

Item #10 Planning for the April 2, 2024 LWCB meeting

The Board should expect the following at the next LWCB meeting, which will be an in-person meeting in Vernon County:

- 5-year Review Chippewa and Vernon Counties
- If available, the 2023 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates

Item #11 Adjourn

Motion

Smith motioned to adjourn, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

These meeting minutes were approved at the June 4, 2024 meeting of the LWCB.