

**MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

April 1, 2025
2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room &
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of February 4, 2025, LWCB meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met in person at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI 53718 and over Microsoft Teams on **April 1, 2025**. 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 a.m.** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Members and Advisors Present

Members: Mark Cupp, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Andy Buttles, Tim Anderson, Andrew Potts, Ron Grasshoff, Mike Hofberger, Rebecca Clarke, D.J. Nichols and Jason Knutson. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Ryan Gerlich (NRCS), Dr. Francisco Arriaga (UW-CALS), Amber Radatz (UW-Extension), Ian Krauss (FSA) and Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Knutson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Hofberger motioned to approve the February 4, 2025, 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 #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Lafayette County

Erica Sauer, County Conservationist; Max Blackburn, Conservation Technician; Laney Finkelmeyer, Conservation Specialist; Jed Grant, Land Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's five-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, Hofberger motioned to recommend approval of Lafayette County’s five-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Marathon County

Kirstie Heidenreich, County Conservationist; Matt Repking, Conservation Analyst; Mike Ritter, Environmental Resources Committee Vice Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County’s five-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, Knutson motioned to recommend approval of Marathon County’s five-year LWRM plan review, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 Balancing on-farm economic incentives with water quality benefits

Jeffrey Hadachek presented research on the cost-effectiveness of the WI Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program at improving water quality and increasing conservation practices.

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Jefferson

Patricia Cicero, Director Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department; Joe Strupp, Resource Conservationist; Meg Turville-Heitz, Land and Water Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County’s five-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, Grasshoff motioned to recommend approval of Jefferson County’s five-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Clarke, and the motion

Item #7 Extension of DATCP Projects from 2024 into 2025; Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2024 Cost-share dollars (written report only)

Susan Mockert, DATCP presented on the extension of DATCP Projects from 2024 to 2025 and a written report, available within the April 4, 2023 meeting packet, on transfers and reallocations of 2024 cost-share dollars.

Motion

McGraw motioned to approve the extension of DATCP Projects from 2024 to 2025 as presented, seconded by Osterman. The motion carried.

Item #8 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates

Grasshoff delivered an update on the March meeting of the Committee. The committee will reconvene in May.

The Board received a request for a letter of support from UW-Platteville Professor, Evan Larson. Cupp noted that the Board could convene an executive committee to review and issue a letter of support on behalf of the Board. Osterman recommended convening an executive committee to review the draft letter. *In subsequent follow-ups between Dr. Larson and Kirsten Biefeld, it was determined the Board could not convene an executive committee and issue a letter of support prior to the assigned deadline.*

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 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Krauss reported that FSA is waiting on updates related to the farm bill for further information on program enrollment periods.
- b. NRCS- Gerlich submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- c. UW-Extension- Amber Radatz reported that the Ag and Water Quality Program just concluded a webinar series. Topics included nitrate leaching, neonics, extreme weather, tile drainage and the science assessment being developed for the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, recorded webinars can be accessed here: <https://agwater.extension.wisc.edu/webinars/>
- d. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported that Carl Wepking has started in the role to facilitate SITCOM; WI Land + Water is working on two toolkits for Renewable Energy Siting and Incorporating Resilience in LWRM plans; the association has started advocacy efforts surrounding county conservation staff funding
- e. DOA- Potts submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- f. DATCP- Anderson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- g. DNR- Knutson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 1, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- h. Member Updates- Cupp noted a recent news story related to septage spreading and asked if any of the agencies were familiar with the narrative and implications.

Item #10 Planning for the June 2025 LWCB Meeting

The Board should expect the following at the next LWCB meeting, which will be a hybrid meeting:

- Plan Revision for Rusk County
- Plan Reviews for Marinette and Winnebago Counties
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
- Educational Opportunity- Cupp advocated for a presentation on wake boating and impacts on conservation.

Item #12 Adjourn

Motion

Osterman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Clarke, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

These meeting minutes were approved at the June 3, 2025 meeting of the LWCB.