

**MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

April 7, 2026
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 3, 2026 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 7, 2026**. 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, Andy Buttles, Rebecca Clarke, Mike Hofberger, Tim Anderson, Andrew Potts, Jason Knutson. A quorum was present.

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Hofberger motioned to approve the February 3, 2026, meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Anderson, 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 5-Year Review for Milwaukee County

Tim Detzer, Principal Environmental Engineer and County Conservationist; Sheldon Wasserman, Parks and Culture Chair formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM plan 5-Year 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, Osterman motioned to recommend approval of Milwaukee County's LWRM plan revision, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan 5-Year Review for Pierce County

Rod Webb, Land Conservation Director; Jerry Kosin, LCC Chair formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM plan 5-Year 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, Anderson motioned to recommend approval of Pierce County's LWRM plan revision, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 Education Item: Soil Health

Randy Zogbaum, DATCP presented on the importance of soil health. An introduction to soil health training and more information can be found at the [DATCP Home Soil Health](#). The direct link to the training can be found at [DATCP Home Soil Health Training](#).

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan 5-Year Review for Buffalo County

Cale Severson, County Conservationist; Max Weiss, LCC Chair formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM plan 5-Year 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 Buffalo County's LWRM plan revision, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #7 Extension of DATCP Projects from 2025 into 2026; Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2025 Cost-Share Dollars (written report only)

Hailey Roessler and Abby Johnson, DATCP presented on the addendum to the 2026 Joint Allocation Plan.

McGraw motioned to approved the extension of DATCP Projects from 2025 to 2026 as presented, seconded by and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #8 Revised Board Questionnaires

Jenn Chakravorty, DATCP presented a recommendation to add a single question to the LWCB Land and Water Resource Management Plan Review and Revisions questionnaires related to needed research and educational programs relating to soil and water conservation. The LWCB had previously contemplated a second question to identify what research or management techniques counties currently use to address land and water conservation issues. However, between the February and April meetings of the Board, Chakravorty consulted with UW Advisors to the Board who reported an additional question was not necessary. Drafts of the review and revision questionnaires were provided in the meeting materials.

After a discussion between the Board and UW Advisors, Osterman motion to approve the addition of the single question as presented by DATCP, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously. The proposed drafts of the review and revision questionnaires will be updated on the LWRM Planning webpage, and updated versions of the questionnaires will be shared with counties that have reviews and revisions coming up.

Item #9 Lunch Break

Item #10 NR 151 Progress and Resources Assessment (NPRA)

Jason Knutson, DNR; Chris Clayton, DATCP; Matt Krueger, WI Land + Water; Ken Genskow, UW presented on the NR151 Progress and Resources Assessment (NPRA). NPRA is a cooperative effort between the DNR, DATCP, Wisconsin Land + Water, and Wisconsin Counties with data analysis and support by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The project is designed to quantitatively evaluate the progress of adoption of agricultural performance standards in Wisconsin. The presentation will be available on the website.

Item #11 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research

Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP presented on the March meeting of the Advisory Committee on Research. Biefeld highlighted outcomes of the committee’s efforts between 2022 and 2026. The 2022-23 Soil & Water Conservation Research and Educational Needs Survey will not be replicated unless review of the research-need responses gathered from the updated LWRM plan update and review questionnaires indicate value in another stakeholder survey, and the Board, in combination with University of Wisconsin feedback and review of DATCP resources, determine another survey is needed and feasible to implement.

DATCP will aggregate county responses to revised board questionnaires for reviews and revisions to summarize county perspectives on needed research and educational programs relating to soil and water conservation on a yearly basis and refer a summary report to the LWCB. Following a unanimous vote at the March 10, 2026 meeting, the committee transitioned from standing bi-monthly meetings to ad hoc, meeting when determined necessary by the LWCB chairperson. To reflect this change, a minor

adjustment will be required in the Board's bylaws at its December 2026 bylaw review. A draft of the March 10 meeting minutes will remain posted on the LWCB website until they are approved at a future Advisory Committee on Research meeting.

Item #12 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- Krauss provided a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 7, 2026 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Gerlich reported NRCS has started obligating EQIP contracts for a new regenerative pilot program focused on soil health. Additionally, NRCS is reviewing all active partnership agreements to ensure they are on task with expected outcomes; all agreements are frozen until reviewed with no deadline date yet given.
- c. UW-CALS- Arriaga reported Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin is leaving UW in June and UW-Madison dean Eric Wilcox will serve as the interim chancellor starting May 17. On May 12 there will be a Dairy Symposium showcasing the Dairy Innovation Hub's research at the Memorial Union. On August 26 there will be an Agronomy and Soils Field Day at the Arlington Ag Research Station.
- d. UW-Extension – No update provided.
- e. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported that WI Land + Water is continuing programming for a 2026 summer cohort of the WI Grazing Academy (which was previously coordinated by the Grassland 2.0 project). The intention is to repeat the grazing academy next year. The 2026 Spring Conservation Partnership Training will take place on May 13 in Baraboo; there will also be a fall training. Registration here: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/conservation-training/2026-spring-conservation-partnership-training>
- f. DOA- Potts reported that Ryan Hutter will be leaving DOA with the vacancy to be filled by July. Act 200 & 201 were signed into law as well as Assembly Bill 605 Act 169. The Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program will not be extended past 7/30/26 and supplemental funding for dairy cattle innovation has not been allocated for 2026.
- g. DATCP- Anderson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the April 7, 2026 [meeting packet](#).
- h. DNR- Knutson reported that Erin Hanson will be the new Northeast Watershed Supervisor. TRM and Urban nonpoint applications are due 4/15. A written report is available within the February 3, 2026 [meeting packet](#).
- i. Member Updates- No member updates

Item #13 Planning for the June 2026 LWCB Meeting

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

- LWRM 5 Year Plan Review for Waushara and Waupaca Counties
- The 2025 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report (if available)
- Board Education Item: Jumping Worms

Item #14 Adjourn

Motion

Knutson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:53pm.

These meeting minutes were approved at the June 2nd, 2026 meeting of the LWCB