

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

August 5, 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 June 3, 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 **August 5, 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 am** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Members and Advisors Present

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

Advisors: Nathan Fikkert (NRCS), Ian Krauss (FSA) and Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Hofberger motioned to approve the June 3, 2025, meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Knutson, 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 5-Year Review for Iron County

Heather Palmquist, County Conservationist; Roy Haeger, LCC 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 Iron County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Greg Coulthurst, County Conservationist; Roy Englebert, LCC member; Jacob Brey, LCC 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, Knutson motioned to recommend approval of Door County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 Climate Change Research

Dr. Evan Larson presented his work on Driftless Oak tree chronology, and its implications for water quantity, drought history, and crop yield in the driftless region.

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of LWRM Plan revision for Oconto County

Ken Dolata, County Conservationist; Tim Cole, Land and Water Conservation Committee Chair, formally requested a recommendation of approval from the Board regarding the County's LWRM Plan Revision.

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, Hoffberger motioned to recommend approval of Oconto County's LWRM plan review, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #7 Update on the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

Joe Bonnell, DNR delivered an update on the nutrient loss reduction strategy update underway by state stakeholders to identify opportunities and challenges to accelerate and support conservation work by implementing a shared strategic vision for nutrient loss reduction via social and behavioral changes across agencies.

Item #8 Presentation of 2025 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan

Susan Mockert, DATCP; Joanna Griffin, DNR delivered a presentation of the 2025 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Motion to receive the Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan and Environmental Assessment by Grasshoff, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #9 DNR presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM)

Joanna Griffin, DNR presented the applications and ranked list for the projects that applied for and received TRM grant support for 2025.

Item #10 DNR presentation of the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source (NPS) and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2025

Joanna Griffin, DNR presented the projects receiving NPS and Storm Water Management support for CY 2025.

Item #11 Agency Reports

Due to audio issues occurring during the agency reports some reports were received via email and included as updates within the minutes.

- a. FSA- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 5, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Gerlich submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 5, 2025 [meeting packet](#). Fikkert reported EQUIP, CSP, and IRA funds will not be available for 2025. They have started making payments for existing agreements. NRCS has experienced significant staffing cuts.
- c. UW-Extension- No report provided.
- d. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported they hosted the National Association of Conservation Districts Summer Meeting in Milwaukee this past week. Around 200 attendees came from all over the US, and heard from USDA-NRCS Secretary Rollins, as well as Gov. Evers. They toured a number of conservation sites in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth counties, and highlighted several Wisconsin conservation programs, including our nonpoint program (NR 151 and Farmland Preservation), Producer-Led Program, and demo farms.
- e. DOA- Potts submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 5, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- f. DATCP- Anderson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 5, 2025 [meeting packet](#). They also indicated

that the Producer-Led Application was available and the monthly newsletter was sent out with agency updates.

- g. DNR- Knutson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 5, 2025 [meeting packet](#). See Items 8-10: DNR preliminary allocation presentations. In response to a question regarding DNR CAFO program staffing, Knutson shared that DNR has 25 FTEs at DNR that work with CAFOs, and only one of those positions is currently vacant. He noted that DNR strives to maintain a 20:1 ratio of CAFOs to DNR regional CAFO staff and is currently at 24:1, as the number of CAFOs continues to rise as farms consolidate and exceed the 1000 animal unit permitting threshold.
- h. Member Updates- Grasshoff indicated that the Research Committee would meet next month to discuss the wakeboat, Driftless Oak Tree, and NLRS presentations at the previous LWCB meetings and prepare next year's schedule of informational presenters.

Item #12 Planning for the October 2025 LWCB Meeting

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

- LWRM Plan Revision for Manitowoc County
- Plan Reviews for Pepin and Walworth Counties
- DNR Presentation of the Final Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2026
- Recommendation for approval of the 2026 Joint Final Allocation Plan
 - Response to comments regarding the 2026 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan
- Presentation on the Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
- Board Education Item: Climate Change in LWRM Plans (WI Land + Water & DNR)

Item #13 Adjourn

Motion

Hoffberger motioned to adjourn, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

These meeting minutes were approved at the October 7, 2025 meeting of the LWCB