

**MINUTES**  
**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**December 5, 2023**  
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Item #1      Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of October 3, 2023, LWCB meeting minutes.**

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**Call to Order**

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met in person at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718 on **December 5, 2023**. 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, Bobbie Webster, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Ron Grasshoff, Andrew Buttles, Robby Personette, Andrew Potts, and Jill Schoen. A quorum was present.

**Advisors:** Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water), Rachel Schindler (FSA), Josh Odekirk (NRCS), Francisco Arriaga (UW CALS), Amber Radatz (UW Extension)

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

Osterman motioned to approve the October 3, 2023, 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**

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Dean Farr, Izaak Walton League, of Crystal Lake Illinois spoke to the Board about a predicted water shortage for the state of Illinois and the need for states to coordinate. The Board discussed the ongoing effort to track practices for watersheds that drain to the Gulf of Mexico and a coalition of Mississippi River mayors who have formed a compact to coordinate on drought, flooding and multi-state solutions to issues like runoff contributing to a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

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

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Brent Tessmer, County Conservationist, and Ray Soper, 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](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

**Motion**

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

**Item #4 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for St. Croix County**

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Tim Steiber, Resource Management Administrator, Jason Kjseth, Community Development Director, and Dan Hansen, Land Conservation Committee & Community Development 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](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

**Motion**

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

**Item #5 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report**

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This item was withdrawn from the December 5, 2023 agenda.

**Item #6 Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin**

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Marissa Jablonski, Executive Director of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin presented an introduction to the works of the Freshwater Collaborative.

**Item #7 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates**

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Ron Grasshoff and Katy Smith, DATCP, discussed updates from the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee on Research; the Committee will reconvene on January 9th, 2024 to discuss work planning.

**Item #8 Review of annual agenda**

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Smith reviewed the draft 2024 annual agenda, noting that Langlade County will present a revision instead of a 5-year review. Cupp requested the incorporation of a Board education item at each meeting.

Potts motioned to recommend approval of the 2024 annual agenda as revised, seconded by Osterman, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Item #9 Agency Reports

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- a. FSA- Schindler reported that the government is operating under a continuing resolution which included a 1-year extension of the farm bill; FSA is anticipating a sign up for continuous CRP to open in the near future; Sign up for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) is ongoing with a deadline of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for drought that occurred during the 2023 grazing period; Emergency Relief Program (ERP) for 2022 for producers impacted by weather conditions and disasters that occurred during calendar year 2022 will open soon.
- b. NRCS- Odekirk reported in Fiscal Year 2023, NRCS provided \$87.6 million dollars to WI private landowners in conservation assistance; 32 new agreement collaborations for \$13 million dollars were put in place and 85 partner positions were established; NRCS is anticipating a significant increase in federal funding for the next calendar year; Field offices are already looking to obligate contracts.
- c. UW-CALS- Arriaga wished everyone a happy world soils day; The [2024 WI Agricultural Outlook](#) forum is set for January 23, 2024; Jeff Hadachek joined the Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics as an assistant professor and extension specialist and will study agricultural water issues and conservation programs. The Horticulture and Agronomy Departments have merged to form the Department of Plant and Agroecosystems Sciences. Steven Hall has joined the Department of Plant and Agroecosystems Sciences to work on water quality systems in the agricultural landscape. CALs and the Division of Extension are working to have more integrated specialists. Malika Nocco will join the Biological Systems Engineering Department to work on water quantity issues. The Dairy Innovation Hub recently hired faculty Xia Zhu-Barker (nitrogen issues), Margaret Kalcic (modeling and surface water issues) to focus on land and water stewardship issues.
- d. UW Madison- Extension- Radatz stated it's meeting season for Extension team members. The WI Water and Soil Health (WWASH) Conference will occur December 7-8, 2023, formerly Discovery farms and cover crops conference; Extension is working with all of the faculty Francisco mentioned to support outreach. Extension now has 5 outreach specialists around the state. The Discovery Farms staff is also fully staffed. Extension has [Agricultural Education Webinars](#) scheduled on Tuesdays once a month for the first quarter of 2024.
- e. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported that elections for WI Land + Water Representatives who serve on the LWCB will be shifted from the association's annual meeting in March to an election in fall of 2024; The Conservation Mentorship Pilot Program is Open; SOC is reviewing the 590 Nutrient Management Standard; In 2024, WI Land + Water will be augmenting their climate resiliency staff in partnership with the Savanna Institute.
- f. DOA- Potts reported that the state multi-discharger variance for phosphorus is past the comment period for the initial technical draft; DOA and DNR held public meetings in Madison and Stevens Point and will revise the technical draft based on those comments.
- g. DATCP- Personette submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the December 5, 2023 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Anderson reported that AB 133 for Farmland Preservation will be signed December 6, 2023. The Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program request for proposal is open through January 31, 2024. Producers are starting to contact UW regarding project designs- interested producers must make contact with Monica Schauer or Lindsey Rushford on or before December 15, 2023

to discuss their proposed research design. The Crop Insurance Premium Rebate for Planting Cover Crops Program application is open. Applications will remain open until January 31, 2024 or until funding is exhausted.

- h. DNR- Schoen submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the December 5, 2023 [meeting packet](#). The Department has hired Joe Bonell to work on the Department's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

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**Item #10      Planning for the February 6, 2024 LWCB meeting**

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The Board should expect the following at the next LWCB meeting:

- Election of 2024 Officers
- 5-year Review Douglas, Rock Counties
- A Presentation on the 2022 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
- Report and Potential Recommendation on 2024 CREP Spending Authority
- 2021-2023 Farmland Preservation Biennial Report
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates, potentially related bylaw revisions
- Board Education Item

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**Item #11      Adjourn**

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**Motion**

Grasshoff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Osterman, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

*These meeting minutes were approved at the February 6, 2024 meeting of the LWCB.*