

**MINUTES  
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**February 1, 2022  
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Item #1      Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of December 7, 2021 LWCB meeting minutes.**

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**Call to Order**

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met via videoconference on **February 1, 2022**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by s. 19.84, Wis. Stat. 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, Eric Birschbach, Bobbie Webster, Ron Grasshoff, Andrew Buttles, Mike Hofberger, Monte Osterman, Brian Weigel, Andrew Potts, and Sara Walling. A quorum was present.

**Advisors:** John Exo (Division of Extension – UW Madison), Francisco Arriaga (UW-Madison), Eric Allness (NRCS), Ian Krauss (FSA) and Matt Krueger (WI Land+Water)

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

Hofberger motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

Walling motioned to approve the draft December 7, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item #2      Public Appearances**

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No public appearance cards were submitted.

**Item #3      Recognition of Eric Birschbach's Service to the LWCB**

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Mark Cupp, LWCB Chairperson, announced Eric Birschbach's intention to resign from the LWCB effective February 2, 2022. Originally appointed by Governor Walker in 2013, Mr. Birschbach has continuously served as the public representative to the LWCB. DATCP staff presented Mr. Birschbach with a certificate of appreciation, signed by Secretary Romanski and Chairman Cupp, in recognition of his service to the LWCB. Mr. Birschbach thanked the Board for the opportunity to be part of the Board and offered his appreciation for the chance to serve.

**Item #4 Election of 2022 Officers**

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The Board conducted an election of officers from the floor in the following order:

**Nomination for Secretary**

Hofberger nominated Osterman as Secretary, seconded by Grasshoff. Birschbach motioned to close nominations, seconded by Hofberger.

The LWCB Chair closed nominations. Osterman was elected to serve as 2022 LWCB Secretary by a unanimous voice vote.

**Nomination for Vice Chair**

Birschbach nominated Webster as Vice Chair, seconded by Grasshoff. Osterman motioned to close nominations, seconded by Walling.

The LWCB Chair closed nominations. Webster was elected to serve as 2022 LWCB Vice Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

**Nomination for Chair**

Grasshoff nominated Cupp as Chair, seconded by Webster. Osterman moved to close nominations for Chair, seconded by Webster.

The LWCB Chair closed nominations. Cupp was elected to serve as 2022 LWCB Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

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

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Brent Edlin, Conservation Coordinator, Washburn County LCD and Tim Kessler, 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](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

**Motion**

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

**Item #6 The Savanna Institute: working to perennialize agriculture in WI and beyond**

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Keefe Keeley, Director, the Savanna Institute, presented to the Board an introduction to the Savanna Institute, the institute mission and how the institute is working to provide opportunities for agricultural producers to plant perennial crops that are both commercially and economically viable. The Savanna Institute believes perennial crops and cropping systems can be interwoven to promote conservation.

For example, agroforestry practices can promote biodiversity, diversify agricultural income, benefit water quality, support natural climate solutions and support the rural economy.

The presentation to the Board is available online at the LWCB website [lwcb.wi.gov](http://lwcb.wi.gov) under February 1, 2022.

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**Item #7      5-Minute Break**

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**Item #8      Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision for Florence County**

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Kelly Sleeter, Land Conservation Administrator, and Scott Goodwin, Land Conservation Technician, Florence County LCD, Adam Christensen, Environmental Planner, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission and Rich Wolosyn, LCC Chair, made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the County’s LWRM plan. A copy of their presentation is available on the LWCB’s website [lwcb.wi.gov](http://lwcb.wi.gov).

DATCP’s review of the plan, using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist, found that the plan complies with all requirements of s. 92.10, Wis. Stat., and Ch. ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code.

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, Hofberger motioned to recommend approval of Florence County’s LWRM plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Item #9      CREP Program Update**

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Brian Loeffelholz, DATCP, presented to the Board an update on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Mr. Loeffelholz provided a broad overview of the CREP program, an update on monitoring of CREP perpetual easements, and a variety of other important program statistics and facts. The cover memo and presentation given to the Board are available online at the LWCB website within the February 1, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

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**Item #10      Gathering input from stakeholders and public on nonpoint funding**

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Chairman Cupp, LWCB, opened the floor for discussion on gathering input from stakeholders and the public on nonpoint funding. During the discussion, the Board evaluated the presence of the “*Gathering input from stakeholders and public on nonpoint funding*” item within the annual agenda. The Board requested Department staff remove this item from the annual agenda, though the Board may choose to address this topic at any point in the future.

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**Item #11      Recommendation for approval of SWRM waiver requests**

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Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP, presented to the Board a summary of Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) waiver requests, in accordance with s. ATCP 50.02, Wis. Adm. Code, DATCP has received for 2022. In total, three counties, Chippewa, Columbia, and Washington Counties have

applied for a one-year waiver of s. ATCP 50.34 (6)(a)4., Wis. Adm. Code, which limits extending funding for the same contract to one additional year. A copy of the cover memo is available online at the LWCB website within the February 1, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

## **Motion**

After a discussion between the Board and agency representatives, Webster motioned to approve the 2022 SWRM waiver requests as presented, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Item #12 Agency Reports**

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**FSA-** Ian Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 1, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

**NRCS** – Eric Allness submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 1, 2022 [meeting packet](#). In addition to the written report, Allness reported: Eric Allness will be serving as the acting WI State Conservationist until Angela Biggs completes her term as the acting Director for the NRCS Pacific Island Area; general NRCS staffing updates.

**UW-CALs** – Dr. Francisco Arriaga reported: the 2022 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be hosting an event on February 2, 2022 on Agriculture, Nitrogen, and Water Quality in Wisconsin, copies of presentations from the Forum are available at [this link](#).

**UW-Extension** - John Exo had no items to report for UW-Extension.

**WI Land+Water-** Matt Krueger reported: the annual WI Land+Water Conference will be held virtually March 2-4; WI Land+Water delegates to the LWCB will be elected at the annual conference; WI Land+Water has moved to 121 S. Pinckney St., Suite 420, Madison, WI 53703; general WI Land+Water staffing updates.

**DOA** – Andrew Potts reported: DOA is working with DNR on the development of the Federal infrastructure bill; general DOA staffing updates.

**DATCP** – Sara Walling submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 1, 2022 [meeting packet](#). In addition to the written report, Walling reported: Sara Williams will be taking over management of LWCB meetings beginning with the April 2022 LWCB meeting; general DATCP staffing updates.

**DNR** – Brian Weigel submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 1, 2022 [meeting packet](#).

**Member Reports** – Chairman Cupp reported a discussion with the UW-Extension Advisor John Exo and the UW-CALS Advisor Dr. Francisco Arriaga in regards to the role of the Board to advise the UW-System on soil and water conservation research needs. Chairman Cupp also reported he has invited Andrea Topper, DATCP, to give a presentation on Certified Crop Advisors during the April LWCB meeting.

**Item #13 Planning for the April 2022 LWCB meeting**

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

- One LWRM plan revision (Jackson County)
- One LWRM 5-year plan review (Menominee County)
- Recommendation on Extension of DATCP Projects from 2021 into 2022
- Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2021 Cost-Share Dollars (written report only)
- A discussion on UW System soil and water conservation research needs
- A presentation on Certified Crop Advisors

**Item #14 Adjourn**

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**Motion**

Walling motioned to adjourn, seconded by Birschbach, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Monte G. Osterman*

Monte Osterman, Secretary

April 6, 2022

Date

Recorder: ZZ, DATCP