

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

**February 4, 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 December 3, 2024, 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 and over Microsoft Teams on **February 4, 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, Mark Witecha for Tim Anderson, Andrew Potts, Ron Grasshoff, Mike Hofberger, and Jason Knutson. A quorum was present.

**Advisors:** Nathan Fikkert (NRCS), Amber Radatz (UW-Extension), Ian Krauss (FSA) and Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water)

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Cupp requested to adjust the start time of the December 3, 2024 meeting as reflected in the minutes. Buttles noted he was present for the meeting and that needed to be reflected in the minutes.

**Motion**

Potts motioned to approve the December 3, 2024, meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Witecha, 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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No public appearance cards were submitted.

**Item #3      Election of 2025 Officers**

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

**Nomination for Secretary**

Osterman nominated McGraw as Secretary, seconded by Potts. Knutson motioned to close nominations for Secretary, seconded by Witecha. The LWCB Chair closed nominations. McGraw was elected to serve as 2025 LWCB Secretary by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Nomination for Vice Chair**

McGraw nominated Osterman as Vice Chair, seconded by Potts. McGraw motioned to close nominations for Vice Chair, seconded by Potts. The LWCB Chair closed nominations. Osterman was elected to serve as 2025 LWCB Vice Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Nomination for Chair**

Chair Cupp turned the election process over to Vice Chair Osterman. Knutson nominated Cupp as Chair, seconded by Hofberger. McGraw motioned to close nominations for Chair, seconded by Potts. The LWCB Vice Chair closed nominations. Cupp was elected to serve as 2025 LWCB Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Item #4      Recommendation for approval of five-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Columbia County**

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Kurt Calkins, Columbia County Land & Water, Planning & Zoning Department Director, and Andrew Fischer, Ag., Extension, Land & 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](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

#### **Motion**

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

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

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Paul Backhaus, Washington County Conservationist, and Denis Kelling, Land Use & Planning Committee Chair, Tina Pridemore, Committee Representative, 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](http://lwcb.wi.gov)).

#### **Motion**

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

#### **Item #6      Farm Sustainability Rewards Project**

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Ben Becker, Wisconsin's Green Fire, presented an introduction to the Farm Sustainability Rewards Project.

**Item #7      Recommendation for approval of five-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Ozaukee County**

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Katie Voegler, Ozaukee County Conservationist and Director for the Land & Water Management Department, and Rob Holyoke, Natural Resources 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: [lwcw.wi.gov](http://lwcw.wi.gov)).

**Motion**

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

**Item #8      LWCB Advisory Committee on Research- Committee Updates**

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Grasshoff reported that the Committee met on January 7, 2025 and reviewed feedback from Chelsea Zegler's presentation at the October 2024 meeting (*The Zone of Interaction: Assessing water quality risk through Soil Sampling- A Participatory Research Project*), the committee work plan and future educational opportunities. Advisor Dr. Francisco Arriaga helped staff connect with UW Faculty Members Paul Mitchell and Jeffrey Hadachek to invite them present on socio-economic incentives and thresholds to motivate change in behavior in agriculture and conservation.

**Item #9      Agency Reports**

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- a. FSA- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 4, 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- Fikkert submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 4, 2025 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Fikkert reported that NRCS is working through normal program deadlines, IRA and BIL programming are paused, and the agency is currently operating with a hiring freeze.
- c. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported that the association has started advocacy efforts surrounding county conservation staff funding and is seeking an increase in total funding and base; the conference is coming in March and that elections for land conservation committee members to the LWCB were administered electronically in 2024, as a result there was a 20% increase in participation over prior in-person elections.
- d. DOA- Potts reported the Governor's budget is anticipated to be released February 18; the Governor has announced a PFAS plan.
- e. DATCP- Witecha submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 4, 2025 [meeting packet](#).
- f. DNR- Knutson submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 4, 2025 [meeting packet](#).

**Item #11      Planning for the April 1, 2025 LWCB meeting**

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

- Plan Revision for Lafayette County
- Plan Reviews for Jefferson and Marathon Counties
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
- Socio-economic incentives and thresholds to motivate change in behavior in agricultural conservation by Paul Mitchell and Jeff Hadachek, UW-Madison

**Item #12      Adjourn**

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**Motion**

Osterman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

*These meeting minutes were approved at the April 1, 2025 meeting of the LWCB.*