

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

October 6, 2020
Skype Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of August 4th, 2020 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Members Eric Birschbach, Ron Grasshoff, Bobbie Webster, Mike Hofberger, Andrew Buttles, Monte Osterman, Christopher Clayton (for Brian Weigel), Sara Walling, and Andrew Potts were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Angela Biggs, NRCS, Matt Krueger, WI Land + Water and Dr. Francisco Arriaga, UW-CALS were also present. Others present included Lisa Trumble, Katy Smith, Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, Alex Elias, Kim Carlson and Zach Zopp, DATCP, Joanna Griffin, DNR.

Zopp confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

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

Birschbach made a motion to approve the August 4th, 2020 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Buttles, and the motion carried unanimously.

Webster requested grammar and spelling corrections to Item 3: *Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Winnebago County*, Item 4: *Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Washington County*, Item 6: *Non-point funding sources*, Item 9: *Update on the Best Management Practice Implementation Tracking System (BITS)* and requested that Item 10: *Agency Reports – DNR* be revised from, “staff have completed 114 facility and more than 400 construction permits” to “staff have completed 114 facility permits and more than 400 construction permits”. Cupp and Biggs requested grammar and spelling corrections to Item 6: *Non-point funding sources*, and Item 10: *Agency Reports – NRCS*.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of 5 year LWRM plan review for Sheboygan County

Chris Ertman, Conservation Specialist for the Sheboygan County Land and Water Conservation Department and Keith Abler, Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Supervisors Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the county’s LWRM plan.

Sheboygan County Land and Water Conservation Department 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).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: using steel furnace slag within edge of field filter strips and the ability of the slag to trap phosphorus from the runoff leaving agricultural fields; use and experimentation with cover crops; influences of extreme climate events on grassed waterways over clay soils, the Milwaukee River Regional Conservation Partnership Program; the Silurian depth to bedrock project; cost-sharing by the Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers Group; influences of the Otter Creek watershed project; the Amsterdam Dune preserve; and the impacts of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer across the County and the efforts of the Reforest Our Trees Sheboygan group to replant trees across the County.

Hofberger moved to recommend approval of Sheboygan County's 5 year LWRM plan review, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Door County

Erin Hanson, County Conservationist, Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department and Ken Fisher, Land Conservation Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of a 10-year approval of the county's LWRM plan.

DATCP's review of the plan using the LWRM Plan Review Checklist found that the plan complies with all requirements of section 92.10, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department 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).

Board members and county representatives discussed the following: how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the goals established within the LWRM plan including: field work, outreach and education and the control of aquatic invasive species; the public's perception of Door County and the County's conservation efforts; the amount of effort the County devotes to organizing, implementing, monitoring and enforcing nutrient management plans; the Peninsula Pride Farmer Led Initiative; and the impacts the Silurian Bedrock rule has had on agricultural producers within the County.

Birschbach moved to recommend approval of Door County's plan revision for a period of 10 years, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 Recommendation for approval of 5 year LWRM plan review for Adams County

Kason Morley, County Conservationist, Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department and Paul Pisellini, Land Conservation Committee Chair, made a formal presentation in support of the 5-year review of the county's LWRM plan.

Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department 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).

Board members and County representatives discussed the following: status of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) and the relationships the County has with the CAFO's; the County's relationships with agricultural producers and the potential for the County to promote nutrient

management plans across the County; the main resource concerns in the County including: 1) nutrient transport to surface waters, 2) nutrient transport into groundwater and 3) wind erosion of soils; expansion of the County's forest preservation program; recent challenges and staff turnover within the county conservationist office; status of Adams County 5-year LWRM plan, deficiencies with the review and discussion on how the board should handle the 5-year review.

Osterman motioned to postpone consideration of approving Adams County's 5-year LWRM plan review until the December 2020 LWCB meeting, seconded by Grasshoff. After a discussion, Osterman moved to amend the motion and require Adams County to return before the LWCB board no later than December 2021 to present the County's LWRM plan for review and approval by the board, the amended motion was seconded by Grasshoff and the motion carried unanimously.

NOTE: The county shall work with DATCP staff and may solicit input from Board members to prepare a presentation in support of a 5-year review as required by LWCB Docket No. 001-00000-L-15-A-1215 in the matter of County Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Adams County at a meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Board during the course of calendar year 2021.

Item #6 Increasing Public Awareness of LWRM Plan Renewal Approvals

Mike Hofberger, LWCB, presented to the board his concern that county Land Conservation Departments (LCD) may not be receiving adequate publicity for LWRM plan renewal approvals and then opened the topic to the board for discussion. In addition to promoting the LWRM plan approvals, the board also believed it would be important to promote success stories from the LCD's. Grasshoff asked if the LWCB or another department/entity has the resources to implement a public awareness strategy. The board requested that DATCP staff evaluate options to increase public awareness of LWRM plan renewal approvals and update the board in the December 2020 meeting.

Item #7 Climate Change Resiliency and LWRM Plans Discussion

Matt Krueger, WI Land + Water, updated the board on developments within a collaborative work group comprised of various county conservation departments and WI Land + Water that is working to address climate change resiliency within LWRM plans. The work group has prepared a draft memo that contains a set of recommendations that can be taken to address climate change resiliency within LWRM plans. The draft memo will be shared with the board ahead of the December 2020 meeting for consideration at the meeting. The board also discussed the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts ([WICCI](#)) becoming active again.

Item #8 Presentation of 2021 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan

Jenni Heaton- Amrhein, DATCP and Joanna Griffin, DNR presented to the board the 2021 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan. Joanna presented the 2021 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan document to the board, which is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the October 6th 2020 [meeting packet](#). As in previous years, the staffing allocation continues to fall short of meeting the statutory formula. The department allocated all the funding available, which covered 100% of the first position and about ½ of the second county position. No funding was available to allocate to the third position. The amount available for bonding has remained consistent, however project expenses are increasing so the bonding allocation does not meet requests. The SEG funding includes \$2.2 million for cost sharing of nutrient management plans and other soft practices, with awards capped at \$95,000. The plan also allocated funding to other project cooperators including UW-

Madison for maintaining and improving nutrient management training, Snap Plan development, and A2809 calculator development, Wisconsin Land and Water for training services and five grants to counties for innovation grants to increase farmland preservation agreements in agricultural enterprise areas.

If recommended by the LWCB, the preliminary allocation will be posted and open for public comment for a 30 day period, after which point the final allocation plan may be considered. The board discussed the 2021 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan; how the current plan compares to prior allocation plans; how state agencies are handling the shortfall in funding; and allocation plan terminology. The board requested that DATCP staff provide a short presentation on the terminology and acronyms used within joint allocation plans at the December 2020 meeting.

Osterman motioned to receive the preliminary allocation plan and post the preliminary allocation plan for review, Webster seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #9 Annual Report on 2019 Program Accomplishments by Counties

Coreen Fallat, DATCP, presented the 2019 soil and water conservation report to the board. The [full report](#) and [presentation](#) to the board are available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website using the provided hyperlinks. The board discussed outreach efforts on LWRM works around the state; DATCP efforts to prepare the report; and County Conservation Department staff workloads. The board also commended DATCP and DNR staff for the quality of the annual report on program accomplishments.

Item #10 Agency Reports

FSA- Ian Krauss, is the new agricultural program specialist with FSA to fill the agency advisory position previously held by Brandon Soldner. FSA held the general sign up for tree and prairie practices as well as continuous sign up for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), with contract acceptance based on the environmental benefits index. In WI, a total of 315 contracts were awarded with 127 re-enrollments for CREP. The sign up period for the FSA Clear 30 program also began. FSA offices throughout the state are still operating in a phase 1 or 2 response to the COVID pandemic. The NRCS will be offering several pathway position vacancies in the fields of conservation and engineering throughout the country and within the state.

NRCS – Angela Biggs submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the [October 6th 2020 meeting packet](#). In addition to the written report, Angela also reported that the NRCS does not have a fiscal year 2021 budget and is operating under a continuing resolution through December 11, 2020. The NRCS is hiring various positions throughout the state including the state soil scientist, soil conservationists and engineers. Recipients of the latest national Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) have been announced.

UW Cals & Ext- Dr. Francisco Arriaga reported that Damon Smith was named the Faculty Director of the Nutrient and Pest Management Program of UW-Madison CALS. The following program meetings will be held virtually: 2020 Pest Management Update Meetings, November 10, 11, and 12; 2020 Soil, Water, and Nutrient Management Update Meetings, December 3 and 4; and 2021 AgriBusiness Classic January 12-14.

WI Land + Water – Matt Kruger reported that the December 2020 County Conservationist meeting and the March 2021 WI Land and Water Conference will both be held virtually. In response to the

COVID pandemic, WI Land + Water has posted 37 different webinars during the course of this year on its training website.

DOA – Andrew Potts reported that state biennial budget requests were due September 15th. DATCP asked for another \$7 million in bonding authority for the SWRM program and the DNR requested \$6.5 million for TRM, both requests are a continuation of current funding into next biennium. The DNR is also requested bonding authority for \$ 4 million for urban non-point, \$25 million for contaminated sediment, \$6 million in dam remediation and \$500 million for the Knowles Nelson Stewardship fund over 10 years at a bonding level of \$50 million per year.

DATCP – Sara Walling reported that DATCP is recruiting two new engineering positions, which have been posted online. The COVID pandemic has required DATCP and UW-Extension to provide virtual training and assistance for farmers to write their own nutrient management plans, as opposed to in-person training. The 2021 application period for the producer led watershed program (PLWPG) funding just closed. DATCP received 33 PLWPG applications requesting just over a million dollars and has \$750,000 available in program funding. The agricultural enterprise area (AEA) program is working with AEA participants to produce an ongoing series of press releases called AEA Snapshots that highlight the benefits of individual AEA's. DATCP has been asked to reduce overall spending by \$3.1 million to help absorb the state budget shortfall resulting from the COVID pandemic, the department is actively making decisions now to absorb the budget reduction.

DNR – Christopher Clayton submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the [October 6th 2020 meeting packet](#). In addition to the written report, Christopher reported that the DNR nitrate targeted performance standard will complete the allotted technical advisory committee meetings and is moving toward producing a draft rule that will be open for public comment in 2021. A GIS based web viewer will be released for the area impacted by the nitrate targeted performance rule and rule updates are being distributed through Gov Delivery. The DNR is working to hire various positions including: engineers, BMP Implementation Tracking System (BITS) project position and a stormwater management section chief.

Member Updates- none

Item #11 Planning for December 2020 LWCB meeting

In addition to the items identified in the proposed 2020 annual agenda, the board should expect the following at the December meeting:

- One 5-year LWRM plan review (Rusk County)
- Three full LWRM plan revisions (Walworth, Ozaukee and Pepin Counties)
- A review of LWCB Bylaw revisions and recommendation for approval
- A review of acronyms related to the preliminary allocation plan
- October 2020 LWCB agenda items 6, 7, 8 have been carried over to December 2020.

Item #12 Adjourn

Walling moved to adjourn, seconded by Hofberger, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbie Webster, Secretary

12/08/2020

Date

Recorder: ZZ, DATCP