

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

February 7, 2023
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of December 6, 2022 LWCB meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met in person at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI 53718 and via videoconference on **February 7, 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, Andrew Buttles, Ron Grasshoff, Rebecca Clarke, Bob Thome, Brian Weigel, Andrew Potts, and Jill Schoen. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water), Jamie Keith (NRCS) and Ian Krauss (FSA), John Exo (UW-Extension).

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Item 6 was removed from the agenda as the presenter was unavailable.

McGraw motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the December 6, 2022 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Potts, 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 Election of 2023 Officers

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

Nomination for Secretary

Grasshoff nominated Osterman as Secretary, seconded by McGraw. McGraw motioned to close nominations, seconded by Thome.

The LWCB Chair closed nominations. Osterman was elected to serve as 2023 LWCB Secretary by a unanimous voice vote.

Nomination for Vice Chair

Grasshoff nominated Webster as Vice Chair, seconded by McGraw. McGraw motioned to close nominations, seconded by Potts.

The LWCB Chair closed nominations. Webster was elected to serve as 2023 LWCB Vice Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

Nomination for Chair

Chair Cupp turned the election process over to Vice Chair Webster.

McGraw nominated Cupp as Chair, seconded by Potts. McGraw moved to close nominations for Chair, seconded by Potts.

The LWCB Vice Chair closed nominations. Cupp was elected to serve as 2023 LWCB Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of 5-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Dane County

Amy Piaget, County Conservationist, and Patrick Downing, 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).

Motion

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

Item #5 Report and Potential Recommendation on the 2023 CREP Spending Authority

Brian Loeffelholz, DATCP, presented on recommended changes to 2023 CREP Spending Authority.

Motion

After a discussion between the Board and agency representatives, Grasshoff motioned to recommend approval of the CREP Spending Authority as proposed, seconded by Thome, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #6 Statewide Phosphorus Multi-discharger Variance

This item was withdrawn from the February 7, 2023, agenda.

Item #7 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research - Committee Updates

Ron Grasshoff and Zach Zopp, DATCP, presented to the Board an update from the LWCB's Advisory Committee on Research. The committee developed a survey and cover letter for distribution to stakeholders soliciting feedback on research and outreach needs related to soil and water conservation. The committee is working on compiling distribution lists for the survey materials. The cover memo submitted to the Board is available online at the LWCB website within the [February 7, 2023 meeting packet](#).

The Board will need to consider how to use the data collected from the survey at a future meeting. Krueger suggested that the Committee evaluate how to introduce the committee to stakeholders before distributing the survey, especially county conservation departments, so that they are more likely to provide survey feedback.

Item #8 Agency Reports

FSA- Ian Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the [February 7, 2023 meeting packet](#).

NRCS – Jamie Keith submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the [February 7, 2023 meeting packet](#). In addition to the written report, Keith reported: Angela Biggs accepted a permanent position as Deputy Chief of Management and Strategy at national headquarters; Greg Kidd retired and was replaced by David Gundlach as the new Assistant State Conservationist- Easements; NRCS is working on guidance for allocation of funds to be distributed under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

UW- CALS & UW Madison- Extension- John Exo submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the [February 7, 2023 meeting packet](#). Exo reported on staffing support from UW that will be supporting the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program.

WI Land+Water- Matt Krueger reported that WI Land + Water's annual conference will occur March 1-3rd in the Wisconsin Dells. Osterman reported that NACD will go through a reorganization of the committee structure at its February Meeting in New Orleans.

DOA – Andrew Potts reported that DOA continues to work with DNR on the adaptive management update. The Governor's budget is due to come out in mid-February.

DATCP – Brian Weigel submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the [February 7, 2023 meeting packet](#). Applications for the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program closed January 31, 2023 and received applications for \$2.2 million in funding. The Department looks forward to reviewing applications in the immediate future. The Cover Crop Rebate program received applications for about 90% of the allocated funds.

DNR – Jill Schoen submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the [February 7, 2023 meeting packet](#). In addition, Schoen reported that DNR has a new Secretary, Adam Payne. His management team includes Jim Zelmer and Anne Kipper who will be acting as Division Administrators. Brian Weigel is joining the DNR as a Deputy Division Administrator of External Services.

Member Updates- Cupp received correspondence from former LWCB member Lynn Harrison. Harrison suggested the Board advocate for a portion of the state surplus be used to pay down environmental debt service.

Item #9 Planning for the April 2023 LWCB meeting

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

- 5-year Review Grant, Burnett Counties
- Extension of DATCP Projects from 2022 into 2023
- Report on Governor’s Proposed Budget for DNR and DATCP nonpoint programs
- Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2022 Cost-share Dollars (written report)
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
 - Planning for Board Actions on the Soil and Water Conservation Survey
- Board Education Item: Statewide Phosphorus Multi-discharger Variance

Item #10 Adjourn

Motion

Buttles motioned to adjourn, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

These meeting minutes were approved at the April 4, 2023 meeting of the LWCB.