

**BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
MINUTES**

July 13, 2023

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Board) met in the DATCP Boardroom, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718 and via zoom on **July 13, 2023**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. §19.84.

Call to Order

Board Vice Chair Miranda Leis called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Members Present

Paul Bauer, Cindy Brown, Tina Hinchley, Dr. Clare Hintz, Miranda Leis, Paul Palmby, Dan Smith, Carla Washington, and Doug Rebout.

Minutes

Motion

A motion was made by Carla Washington and seconded by Paul Palmby to approve the May 11, 2023, Board minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Adam Payne, Secretary-designee
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

Adam Payne, Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, presented to the Board. Secretary-designee Payne said that, since starting in his role, his three areas of focus have been PFAS, parks, and personnel. Secretary-designee Payne identified water quality as a top priority. Secretary-designee Payne said that he wanted a close working relationship with DATCP water quality and was hopeful that the DNR's new Office of Agriculture and Water Quality would further enhance the teamwork and collaboration among the Departments, farmers, and local conservation departments.

Secretary-designee Payne discussed the key priorities he has identified in discussions with DNR staff, stakeholders, and others:

- Building relationships and working with the Governor, Legislature, local government, other agencies, and outside groups.
- Having Wisconsin leading on PFAS.
- Engaging young people in outdoors, including conservation practices and appreciation of Wisconsin's resources.
- Building capacity to take care of land, water, and infrastructure.

DATCP Employees of the Year Office of the Secretary

Secretary Randy Romanski presented the 2023 DATCP Employees of the year to the Board:

- Wahajuddin Syed, Environmental Health Sanitarian in the Division of Food and Recreational Safety.
- Holly Porter, Division Office Manager in the Division of Agricultural Resource Management.
- Micah Brown, Office Associate in the Division of Management Services.
- Sally Sutherland, Section Manager in the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection.
- The entire Division of Animal Health.
- Dan Bauer, Wisconsin Farm Center Supervisor in the Division of Agricultural Development.

Public Appearances

The following made public appearances in front of the Board today:

None

ATCP 10 Dog Import Rabies Division of Animal Health Final Rule

Angela Fischer, Program and Policy Analyst from the Division of Animal Health requested approval of the Final Rule for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 10 from the Board.

Motion

A motion was made by Paul Bauer and seconded by Paul Palmby to approve the Final Rule for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 10. Motion was approved unanimously.

Update on Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Division of Agricultural Management

Tim Anderson, Director of the Bureau of Land and Water Resources, presented the Board an update on the first round of contracting with producers for the Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot program. The program developed an emergency rule and Request for Proposals to administer the program. The program received 31 applications requesting \$2.2 million in project funding. The program selected 20 projects for awards totaling \$1.58 million. Anderson discussed two of the projects that were funded.

Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Survey Update

Greg Bussler

Greg Bussler, State Statistician from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, presented a report to the Board on statistics for crop planting, milk production, milk and crop prices, maple syrup production, the winter wheat production forecast, crop progress, chicken and egg production, and farm labor. Bussler also told the Board that the August crop production report will be released August 11, 2023, and that NASS has extended data collection for the 2022 Census of Agriculture until the end of July.

Ag Export Highlights

Division of Agricultural Development

Mark Rhoda-Reis, Director of the Business and Export Development Bureau, presented the quarterly update on Wisconsin's food, forestry and agricultural product exports to the Board.

- Wisconsin dairy, meat, crop exports in Q1 of 2023 were \$995 million, down 2.5% from the same period in 2022, but still one of highest totals ever.
- Of top five markets (Canada, Mexico, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico), overall exports to Mexico were up. Others were overall flat or decreased.
- Dairy exports were \$124 million, down overall 2.5%
- Meat exports were \$191 million, down overall 8.0%
- Crop exports were \$679 million, down overall 0.8%

Farm Center Update

Division of Agricultural Development

Dan Bauer, Wisconsin Farm Center Supervisor, presented the Board an update on the Wisconsin Farm Center. Bauer provided the Board with background on the Farm Center by introducing its staff and discussing the Center's various programs for farmers: financial consulting, transition planning, conflict mediation, herd-based diagnostics, veteran-farmer assistance, and farmer wellness.

Bauer also summarized the services the Farm Center has provided over past year:

- Received 1,100 calls to helpline
- Opened more than 70 new financial or transition planning cases
- Assisted or resolved 965 one-off inquiries or requests
- Opened 14 new mediation program cases
- Developed Wisconsin Beginning Farmer Resource Guide with the USDA Farm Services Agency and University of Wisconsin Extension

Office of the Secretary Report

Deputy Secretary Aileen Switzer presented the Office of the Secretary update to the Board

- In June, Secretary Romanski and DATCP staff travelled to the United Kingdom for a trade mission as part of the Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports. Deputy Secretary Switzer described the mission's activities and discussed the opportunities for Wisconsin agricultural exports in the UK.
- In June, Secretary Romanski and DATCP staff attended the Midwestern Association of State Departments of Agriculture regional meeting in Minneapolis. The agenda included discussions on rural mental health, water quality, international trade, meat processing, and supply chain resilience.
- DATCP Staffing updates:
 - Mike Strigel will be starting as Assistant Deputy Secretary on July 17
 - Robby Personette began as ARM administrator in June
 - Michelle Reinen began as TCP administrator in June
- The DATCP space consolidation project has been completed, and the State Laboratory of Hygiene will be moving into the first floor of the Prairie Oak State Office Building.
- Governor Evers signed the state budget in July. The budget contains investments in agriculture, including:
 - Additional dairy processor grants
 - Continuing nitrogen optimization funding
 - Increased funding for meat processing grants
- The budget also continues investments in items the Governor has prioritized, including:
 - Ongoing funding to increase exports of Wisconsin agricultural products
 - Funds to support producer-led watershed protection groups
 - Funding for the Agriculture Clean Sweep Program
 - Funding to support county conservation staff
- DATCP staff and leadership will be attending Farm Technology Days
- DATCP is preparing for the Wisconsin State Fair

Board Member Updates

The following DATCP Board members commented on industry, business, training, and personal agricultural issues that arose since the last Board meeting: Paul Bauer, Cindy Brown, Tina Hinchley, Dr. Clare Hintz, Miranda Leis, Paul Palmby, Dan Smith, and Carla Washington.

Future Agenda Items

Motion

Tina Hinchley moved, and Dan Smith seconded, a recommendation to the DATCP Secretary's Office to have a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board in 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Bauer and seconded by Dan Smith. Motion approved unanimously. The Board adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

All reports and any associated documents presented during a Board meeting can be accessed by contacting the datcpboard2@wisconsin.gov or (608) 224-5029.