

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

August 1, 2023
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of June 6, 2023 LWCB meeting minutes.

Call to Order

The Land and Water Conservation Board (Board) met in person at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718 on **August 1, 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 a.m.** and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Members and Advisors Present

Members: Mark Cupp, Bobbie Webster, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Ron Grasshoff, Rebecca Clarke, Andrew Buttles, Robby Personette, Andrew Potts, and Jill Schoen. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water), Ian Krauss (FSA), Eric Allness (NRCS), Amber Radatz (UW-Extension).

Approval of Agenda

Motion

Grasshoff motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Webster, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the June 6, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by McGraw, 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 Recommendation for approval of Five-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan review for Juneau County

Dustin Ladd, County Conservationist, and Chris Zindorf, Land and Water Resource 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).

Motion

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

Item #4 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants

Dana Christel, DATCP, provided an overview of the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program. Ken Kayhart, Farmer and Member of Farmers of the Lemonweir, delivered a presentation on progress made in one of the Juneau County Producer-Led Watershed Protection Groups established in 2021. A copy of each presentation is available on the LWCB’s website: lwcb.wi.gov.

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

Erik Wojchik, County Conservationist, Bob Kazmierski, Environmental Services Division Director, and Kim O’Connell, Environmental Services 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).

Motion

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

Item #6 Presentation of the 2024 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan

Susan Mockert, DATCP and Joanna Griffin, DNR presented to the Board the 2024 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan. The 2024 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan document is available online at the LWCB website within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#).

Item #7 DNR Presentation of Preliminary Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Projects for CY 2024

Joanna Griffin, DNR, presented to the Board the Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Applications for CY 2024. The memo describing the preliminary 2024 Scores and Rankings of TRM projects for CY 2024 is available within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#).

Item #8 DNR Presentation of Preliminary Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2024

Joanna Griffin, DNR, presented to the Board the Scores and Rankings of Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Applications (UNPS) for CY 2024. The memo describing the preliminary 2023 Scores and Rankings of UNPS projects for CY 2024 is available within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#).

Item #9 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates

Ron Grasshoff and Katy Smith, DATCP, discussed that the July 11 meeting of the Committee on Research was cancelled; DATCP has been coordinating with Dr. Francisco Arriaga to compile a list of UW contacts to whom the report should be shared to; the Committee will reconvene on September 5, 2023 to discuss future needs.

Item #10 Recommendation to Distribute Report on Soil and Water Conservation Research and Educational Program Needs to UW-System, Stakeholders

A draft of the 2023 LWCB Survey Report Cover Letter is available within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#). Following a review of the letter, the Board discussed the following:

Motion

After a discussion between the Board, McGraw motioned to approve the cover letter as drafted and recommend distribution of the 2023 LWCB Survey Report, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #7 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- NRCS- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Allness submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#).
- a. UW Madison- Extension- Radatz reported that the Ag Water Quality Program is hiring one more Ag Water Quality Outreach Specialist on the Western side of the State; Extension staff in the Ag Water Quality Program and the Crops and Soils Program are working collaboratively with DATCP NOPP personnel to strategize how to utilize the data from the agronomic and water quality standpoint; the Ag Institute is working with new funding from the legislature and from USDA ARS to hire new positions to work on conservation cropping systems.
- b. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported that the association hosted its County Conservationist meeting in mid-July. Topics of discussion included solar development, outreach around the ag performance standards, how to get conservation on the ground with increased federal dollars projected in the next five years, impacts of the cuts in the state budget on county conservation staffing dollars. In addition, Krueger reported that the governor is projected to sign AB 131 this week- the bill is projected to broaden agricultural representation on LCCs and address concerns over FSA representation; WI Land + Water is recruiting to replace Isabelle Paulsen; WI Land + Water is starting works on a five-year strategic plan.
- c. DOA- Potts noted the budget was passed; the implications of changes from bond to GPR funding at DATCP and DNR; the implications of the cuts to the county staffing grant appropriation and the need to coordinate with DATCP and WI Land + Water to educate the legislature of the impacts thereof.
- d. DATCP- Personette submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#).

- e. DNR- Schoen submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the August 1, 2023 [meeting packet](#). In addition Schoen reported that there are upcoming webinars to discuss changes in Surface Water Grants; DNR recently hired 2 non-point coordinator positions: Casey Jones (NE), Jake Dickmann (SC) regions; last week DNR issued a determination not to reissue a CAFO general permit- the department will be working with impacted facilities to transition from a general permit to an individual permit.

- f. Member Updates- Osterman reported that he attended the NACD meeting after the County Conservation meeting in July. The national NACD budget of pass-through funds has increased substantially from 2019 to the 2014 projected budget. The current national focus of NACD is the climate smart commodities grant. Due to increasing membership in the North Central Region, the region is anticipated to have increasing influence on outcomes in the Farm Bill.

Item #8 Planning for the October 2023 LWCB meeting

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

- Five-year Review Monroe, Oneida Counties
- The Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report
- Presentation of 2024 Joint Allocation Plan; Final Scores and Rankings of Targeted Runoff Management and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Projects for CY 2024
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates
- Board Education Item- State Interagency Training Committee - Opportunities and Challenges
Michael Hook, WI Land + Water

Item #9 Adjourn

Motion

Grasshoff motioned to adjourn, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

These meeting minutes were approved at the October 3, 2023 meeting of the LWCB.