

2022 WI LAND+WATER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Engineering Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be noted once approved.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2	
10:00-11:00am	<p>Welcome and keynote with Soil Health Expert Jay Fuhrer Jay Fuhrer is a soil health specialist, who worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Bismarck, N.D. from 1980-2020. He has boots-on-the-ground experience over the last 38 years working with cropping systems, grazing systems, cover crops, and gardens. Jay also has an extensive background collaborating with groups and entities such as soil and water conservation districts, national and international no-till organizations, watersheds, farm organizations, urban groups, and more. Recently, Jay spends his time as Lead Educator at the Menoken Farm, minimizing soil disturbance, adding soil armor, maximizing plant diversity, maintaining living roots in the soil, and integrating livestock.</p>
11:15-Noon	<p>Soil Health Expert Jay Fuhrer – Armor Up! Learn more from Jay in this technical session.</p>
12:25-1:15pm	<p>Land and Water Conservation Board candidate speeches</p>
1:20-2:15pm	<p>Climate Resiliency in Wisconsin: How counties are responding. The Monroe County - Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) was launched in 2019 after a series of devastating floods. Led by the county land conservation department, the Monroe County - CCTF is taking a proactive approach to climate change by installing Weather Monitoring Stations, assessing crossings (bridges/culverts), helping landowners relocate out of the floodplain, and identifying land use changes to limit the impacts of extreme weather in Monroe County. <i>Presenter: Bob Micheel, Monroe County Land Conservation Department Director.</i></p> <p>Climate Action in Dane County. In 2020 Dane County issued an ambitious countywide Climate Action Plan and now the priority is on implementing the plan, which means reducing GHG emissions and increasing natural carbon sequestration. Attend to learn more about these efforts, including how Dane County is leveraging its existing land and water quality initiatives to support climate priorities. <i>Presenter: Kathy Kuntz, CC-P, is the Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change in Madison. Kathy has almost 30 years of experience implementing programs focused on resource efficiency and climate action.</i></p>
2:30-3:00pm	<p>Beyond the field edge: forest management and water quality. Join <i>Tony Johnson, Natural Resources Educator-Forestry, UW-Madison Division of Extension</i>, and hear about ways to integrate forestry into whole farm planning and management, as well as resources to help landowners.</p>
3:15-4:30pm	<p>Technical Roundtable #1: Manure Storage Abandonment Procedures. <i>Travis Buckley, DATCP</i>, will discuss the current manure storage abandonment procedures and go through recommendations from counties with experience with this. Manure Composting. <i>Buckley</i> will also lead a discussion on current manure composting methods.</p>

THURSDAY, MARCH 3	
8:00-8:45am	<p>Multi Discharge Variance Funding. How's It Working? MDV funding has been around for a few years and has been an important money stream for counties to implement BMPs. How's it working in Wisconsin? This two-part presentation is from both a county's and the WDNR's perspectives. Fond du Lac County was an early recipient of MDV monies, and they'll discuss how they were able to use their monies in their county. They'll also share their experience with fluctuating annual amounts. WDNR will provide an update from the statewide perspective, including a summary of program accomplishments and insights into the future of MDV funding. <i>Presenters: Paul Tollard, Fond du Lac County (invited); Matthew Claucherty and Andrew Craig, WDNR.</i></p>

9:00-10:00am	Hydrological Restoration 101: A Primer for Land Conservation Committee Members. This interactive session will help participants better understand opportunities to repair hydrology to solve problems in their communities. Following short presentations on hydrology fundamentals and how loss of storage, infiltration, connectivity, and flow contribute to water related concerns, presenters will lead a series of exercises to help participants think about how <i>and why</i> to elevate consideration of hydrologic condition in county plans and policies. The session will wrap up with examples of Wisconsin-based efforts to restore hydrology to reduce flooding, conserve groundwater, and improve stream health, and details on efforts to improve integration of hydrologic assessment and restoration in state sponsored programs. The session is hosted and facilitated by Wisconsin Wetlands Association and was developed in collaboration with DATCP Conservation Engineering Section staff.
10:15-11:30	Technical Roundtable #2: Natural Flood Management Utilizing “Slow the Flow” Practices to Promote Floodplain Connectivity and Maximize Wetland Storage. This roundtable will discuss the ongoing project in Ashland County which will utilize wetlands and stream connectivity to decrease the flow volumes during severe storm events. We will discuss planning options to date and provide insight into the project showcasing our planning idea and the obstacles that we had to work through. <i>Presenters: Stacy Dehne, DATCP, and Wisconsin Wetlands staff.</i>
Noon-1:00pm	Groundwater session: Four counties, three studies. New findings and lessons from Kewaunee research and the Southwest WI Groundwater and Geology Study (SWIGG). <i>Presenters: Mark Borchardt and Tucker Burch, USDA Agricultural Research Service; and Joel Stokdyk, USGS.</i>
1:15-2:00pm	Mapping your environment with LiDAR. Processing and analyzing LiDAR is difficult but developing countywide environmental LiDAR layers can help land managers quickly locate and mitigate risks, perform preliminary design, plan efficient site visits, and much more. Access to culvert inventories, EHD, countywide hydro-enforced DEMs, closed depressions, modeling accumulated flow paths and catchments, or assessing risk of erosion, can put your data to work to save time and money. Dive into the use case for these Lidar derived products. <i>Presenters: Adam Derringer, GISP, and Bruce Riesterer, Ayers Associates.</i>
2:15-3:30pm	Wisconsin’s changing climate, impacts, and adaptation strategies. In recent years, extreme weather linked to climate change has been battering communities more and more across the globe. Meanwhile, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) has been doing its part to address these challenges at home in Wisconsin. WICCI is a nationally recognized collaboration of scientists and stakeholders working together to help Wisconsin policymakers and citizens understand the impacts of climate change. WICCI is set to launch its new comprehensive assessment report on climate change in Wisconsin, focusing on science, impacts and solutions. In this session, WICCI members will describe how Wisconsin’s climate has changed and is likely to change in the future, along with an overview of climate impacts and adaptation strategies across Wisconsin’s people, land, water, and the built environment. <i>Presenter: Dr. Steve Vavrus, Co-Director of WICCI and Senior Scientist, Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research, UW-Madison.</i>
3:45-4:30pm	Wisconsin Soil Health 101. Learn the basics on the principles of soil health, resource concerns, soil health practices, assessing soil health, and success stories with examples of economic benefits. <i>Presenter: Andy Paolucci, USDA-NRCS.</i>

FRIDAY, MARCH 4	
8:00-8:45am	Invasive Species and County Funding Updates. This session will cover general identification of high priority and newer invasives, as well as some of the more common aquatic and terrestrial invasives. We will discuss the importance of early detection monitoring and a successful eradication story. Additionally, there will be an overview of the new Lake Monitoring and Protection Network noncompetitive AIS funding available for each county. <i>Presenter: Chris Hamerla, Golden Sands RC&D.</i>
9:00-9:45	From Fields to Features: Telling the Stories of Conservation. <i>Zach Laughlin, Fond du Lac County LWCD's Outreach and Education Coordinator</i> , will show how social media is a free and easy tool to promote projects, and provide tips on what type of equipment is most useful for taking photos and videos in the field. <i>WI Land+Water's Communications Manager, Kristin Teston</i> , will then talk about our success stories, how to connect with media outlets, and showcase the resources and tools on WI Land+Water's new website.
10:00-10:45am	Floodplain Management Workshop. Hear the latest on federal, state and local roles; understanding the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs); Letters of Map Change (LOMC): LOMA, LOMR, LOMR-F, CLOMA, CLOMR, CLOMR-F; Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analyses; Zone AE and Zone A Development Scenarios; and Flood plain Management. <i>Presenter: Brian Cunningham, WDNR.</i>
11:00-Noon	County Presentations. First, <i>Marie Raboin and Chelsea Zegler, Dane County LWCD</i> , will present on some of the work their producer-led watershed group is doing in the cover crop world, including interseeding, planting green, alternative forage systems or grazing cover crops. Next, <i>Jeremy Freund, Outagamie County LCD</i> , recently received final monitoring data for their Ag Runoff Treatment Systems (ARTS). Based on the data, they installed a phosphorus removal filter to further treat the dissolved P part of the runoff. He'll share the setup, project, and lessons learned from the ARTS.
1:00-1:45	Outside the box: Creative ways to leverage partnerships, funding, and resources to further conservation efforts. First, <i>Kyle Minks, Dane County LWRD</i> , will share how Dane County worked collaboratively with six different organizations and agencies to secure a \$1.8 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) award from USDA-NRCS to improve soil health and water quality. He'll share lessons learned on successfully working with partners to secure funding and implement the project. Next, <i>Jim Arch, Clark Co. LCD</i> , and <i>Greg Leonard, Eau Claire Co. LCD</i> present on the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition and their creative ways to get watershed-wide grants and projects going, including working with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning to write grants that apply across county lines, as well as a county assisting in grant writing to help another county obtain a grant that time and workload would prevent them from getting by themselves. Then <i>Greg Baneck, Outagamie County</i> , shows that in this day and age, it unfortunately isn't a one size fits all approach to fund their local programs... it takes a host of funding sources to make it work. As they say... you don't necessarily want to see how the sausage is made!
2:00-3:00	Annual business meeting