



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Board of Directors

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2022	
Start Time: 9:00 am	End Time: 12:23 pm
Hybrid (in-person and virtual):	Portage County Annex Building, 1462 Strongs Ave, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (Rms 1+2) and https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83236130025?pwd=TVVCdW1TWkljaTBHYORISDURnIZIUT09
Conference Phone:	1-312-626-6799
Access Code:	Meeting ID: 832 3613 0025 Passcode: 786917
<p>WI Land+Water BOD Members (2022-24): <u>Area 1 (LM)</u>: Scott Frank (<i>Shawano LCD</i>), Tom Mandli (<i>Marinette LCC</i>); <u>Area 2 (LW)</u>: Brian Haase (<i>Waupaca LWCD</i>), Mike Hofberger (<i>Calumet LWCC</i>); <u>Area 3 (SE)</u>: Marissa Castello (<i>Waukesha LRD</i>), Monte Osterman (<i>Racine LCC, Chair</i>); <u>Area 4 (S)</u>: Amy Piaget (<i>Dane LWRD, Treasurer</i>), Melissa Luck (<i>Richland LCC</i>); <u>Area 5 (W)</u>: Bob Micheel (<i>Monroe LCD, President</i>); Mary Henry (<i>Vernon LCC</i>); <u>Area 6 (WC)</u>: Chase Cummings (<i>Dunn LWCD</i>); Ken Gerhardt (<i>LCC Rep</i>); <u>Area 7 (NW)</u>: Ben Dufford (<i>Bayfield LWCD</i>); MaryJo Gingras (<i>Alternate LWCD</i>), Craig Conroy (<i>Burnett NRC</i>); <u>Area 8 (NC)</u>: Carolyn Scholl (<i>Vilas LWCD, Secretary</i>), Jim Winkler (<i>Oneida LCC</i>)</p> <p>Non-Voting Advisors: Dan Bahr (<i>Wisconsin Counties Assn</i>), Angela Biggs (<i>NRCS</i>), Chris Clayton (<i>DNR</i>), Coreen Fallat (<i>DATCP</i>), Mike Gilbertson (<i>DNR</i>), Beth Mason (<i>Ntnl Assn of Conservation Districts</i>), Dan Zerr (<i>UW-Madison Division of Extension</i>)</p> <p>WI Land+Water Staff: Matt Krueger (<i>Executive Director</i>), Kim Warkentin (<i>Operations Manager/Youth Education Director</i>)</p>	
<p>WI Land+Water Mission: To protect, conserve, and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources by advocating for and supporting county conservation efforts, for current and future generations.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WI Land+Water meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe via web or call-in if desired. Please state your name if using the dial-in option. Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the board. 	
Next Meeting Time: December 13, 2022, Portage County Annex and virtual	

In Attendance:

Micheel @10:25;
Conroy until 10:30;
Jim Winkler @10:35;
also Tracy Arnold,
Matt Hanewall, Dan
Zerr, Eric Allness

Absent: Dufford
(excused)

9:00 am

Call to Order – Chair Monte Osterman

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll call taken and quorum determined

Motion to adopt agenda: Hofberger/Gerhardt; All ayes.

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes from July 14, 2022: Frank/Scholl; All ayes.

9:05 am

Review of Financial Reports – Treasurer Amy Piaget, Exec. Director Matt Krueger

- WI Land+Water YTD Budget vs Actual - JUN 2022
 - Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (January-June 2022) Piaget and Krueger reviewed.
 - Full audit for 2022 yet to come this year, has been delayed slightly. Will be more expensive than in the past, due to increase in different funding sources (private grants, governmental contracts, etc.)
 - Some reduced expenses: no office rent paid in February (negotiated in new lease); virtual conference saw us halve our expenses; staff professional development spending is down but will start to increase as covid recedes;
 - Meeting expenses are down, but a reminder that we have budget available for Board mtg expenses (food and space), as well as Board member travel reimbursement (LCC members only).
 - Big picture: net income is \$11,000 below what we budgeted for at this point, but also have reduced expenses, so we are in pretty good shape.
 - Addition discussion of a recurring donation from a family donor, and enhancing contributor relationships.

Motion to approve and file: Gerhardt/Cummings; All ayes.

9:30 am

Approval of External Committee Representatives – Osterman

- Amy Piaget (Dane) – Standards Oversight Council (SOC) county representative – oversees and reviews technical standards for conservation work, update standards as necessary through sub-committees.
- Tyler Betry (Sheboygan) – Wisconsin County Code Administrators Exec. Comm. – Zoning/Sanitary codes – keeps the public informed of the codes.
- Andy Baker (Rock) – DATCP Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Workgroup – Discuss strategies for implementation of Act 223 program.

Motion to approve all representatives: Conroy/Henry; All ayes.

9:40 am

Approval of Committee Guiding Principles – Krueger

- Committees operate under guiding principles that are approved by the Board of Directors. Two committees have updated their GPs:
 - Technical Committee – Matt Hanewall (chair) - minor changes to Technical Committee mission statement to make it more comprehensive. Motion to approve guiding principles retroactive from June, 2022: Cummings/Piaget; All ayes.
 - Youth Education Committee – Tracy Arnold (chair) - minor change added to #6 Silent Auction updated date to Oct 2022. Motion to approve guiding principles: Frank/Hofberger; All ayes.

- 9:50 am 2023 Strategic Planning – Osterman**
Current plan will expire in 2023. Krueger asked Board for input on the appropriate duration of plan. Discussion followed, decided upon one-day retreat style, five-year duration, and looking into whether UW-Madison Division of Extension might be able to facilitate.
- 10:00 am Board Member Volunteer Opportunities – Krueger**
– National Association of District Conservation Employees State Contact – NCDEA Greg Banek has resigned as the contact to this organization. We need a new rep to solicit input and relay information to LCD staff from this organization. Krueger will send the opportunity out to LCD listserv to recruit a volunteer.
– Annual Conference session – “Taking Your LCC/LCD Partnership to Light Speed” – Looking for staff and LCC members to participate. LCD panel volunteers: Gingras, Piaget, Haase; LCC panel volunteers: Hofberger, Gerhardt, and Mandli. Gingras or Scholl will moderate.
- 10:15 am Break**
- 10:25 am Agency Advisor Reports**
Eric Allness (NRCS, in for Angela Biggs) – Oct 1, 2023 federal fiscal yr begins. \$50 million financial assistance shared in 2022. All programs are over prescribed. \$20 billion additional money available in 2023-2026 for conservation programs nationwide. NRCS has an updated and more robust website.

Dan Zerr (UW-Madison Div. of Extension) – Replacement staff Anna James, new educator in Wood Co area. Discovery Farms, Producer-Led conferences coming up in WI Dells. Zerr can help find a skilled facilitator for strategic planning. We will be receiving a survey about research and education needs.

Chris Clayton (DNR) provided a written report. In our email.
- 10:40 am WI Land+Water Staff Appearance – Kim Warkentin, Operations Manager/Youth Education Director** – Warkentin shared a powerpoint and discussed her many roles as the Operations/Youth Education staff member for WI Land+Water. Highlighted ways Board members can support the program. Discussion.
- 11:00 am Underserved Population Representation on Board – President Bob Micheel**
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) inquired whether there was tribal representation on the Board. Discussion followed, focused on what meaningful engagement would look like. Next steps are to reach out to WI Land+Water LCD and LCC members who work closely with tribes to get input.

11:15 am Executive Committee Report – Micheel

- WI Land+Water bylaws review – currently undergoing legal review; revisions have been proposed, which are nearly complete, and bylaws will be front of Board in December for review.
- Expanding financial administrative capacity via expanded contract with CPA Chad Rhoades. Have handed Chad Rhodes more financial management duties over the past couple years, including monthly bank and credit card reconciliations in Quickbooks, monthly reconciliation of our Paypal account, and now accounts payable responsibilities. These steps have removed some administrative duties from Warkentin's plate.
- Board initiatives – Many Board members have stepped up to engage in specific initiatives, including climate initiative and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Working these into plan for 2023.

11:30 am Executive Director's Report – Krueger

- Updates on issues relevant to membership: Farm Service Agency, Extension – FSA policy change – WI Land+Water, Wisconsin Counties Association, and Farm Bureau are together pursuing legislation to clear up confusion on representation for LCCs (Chap. 92). Will try to retain flexibility for counties in filling the "FSA seat," while retaining the emphasis that the seat be a representative of agriculture. Discussion.
- UW-Madison Division of Extension recently discussed changes to agriculture support staff, now featuring a layering of specialized staff over a broader geography via regional educators and outreach specialists. Krueger will send out a handout that explains these changes.
- McKnight Foundation support of Climate Resilience Program – we received a private grant to support the program for two years at \$200,000. Report was sent out to the board members via email. Grant will support LWCD/LCC leaders interested in accounting for/tracking greenhouse gas reductions/carbon sequestration; translating federal funding opportunities to the implementation level of our members; coordinating demonstration events to highlight innovative farmers and conservation strategies.
- Association of Conservation Executive Directors – new affiliation organization through NACD. Krueger attended Ntnl Assn of Conservation Districts' Executive Directors Conference in Delaware earlier in the month. Rationale is that Directors needed support and to increase their network beyond just the once per year at NACD conference. By-laws were drafted at the conference. NACD climate-smart and resilience grants will be available in the coming months...more to come on that.

- 2023 budget development process – staff have been working through development of the organizational budget, starting with anticipating 2023 needs on a program-by-program basis. Executive Committee will review the proposed budget in November and then the Board in December.
- Organizational audit – rushing to get this completed and filed.

11:50 am Closing Remarks – Osterman

NACD friends grants available to help departments get started with NACD programs. Scholarship money available to county reps who have never attended. Micheel will be attending annual conference in February. Osterman shared a slide of the NACD BOD Committee/Sub-Comm structure. Osterman attended Coastal resources – soil and water session was popular and productive. Ashland Co will be featured at Dec meeting.

11:55 am Announcements – Hofberger appreciates the staff updates. Frank had a suggestion for tribal rep to the Board. Discussion.

12:23 pm Motion to adjourn: Gerhardt/Frank; All ayes.

Respectfully submitted by: Carolyn Huza (Scholl), Secretary