

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2024
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison WI
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of December 5, 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 **February 6, 2024**. 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, Monte Osterman, Brian McGraw, Ron Grasshoff, Yogesh Chawla, Andrew Buttles, Robby Personette, Andrew Potts, and Jill Schoen. A quorum was present.

Advisors: Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water), Ian Krauss (FSA), Ryan Gerlich(NRCS), Francisco Arriaga (UW CALS), Amber Radatz (UW Extension)

Approval of Agenda

Motion

McGraw motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Potts, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Osterman motioned to approve the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Schoen, 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 2024 Officers

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

Nomination for Secretary

Grasshoff nominated McGraw as Secretary, seconded by Osterman. The LWCB Chair closed nominations. McGraw was elected to serve as 2024 LWCB Secretary by a unanimous voice vote.

Nomination for Vice Chair

Grasshoff nominated Osterman as Vice Chair, seconded by Buttles. The LWCB Chair closed nominations. Osterman was elected to serve as 2024 LWCB Vice Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

Nomination for Chair

Chair Cupp turned the election process over to Vice Chair Osterman. Buttles nominated Cupp as Chair, seconded by Grasshoff. The LWCB Vice Chair closed nominations. Cupp was elected to serve as 2024 LWCB Chair by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Ashley Strabel, County Conservationist, and Sue Hendrickson, 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, Grasshoff motioned to recommend approval of Douglas County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by McGraw, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Andrew Baker, Rock County Land Conservation Department Director, and Alan Sweeney, Land Conservation Committee Vice-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, Buttles motioned to recommend approval of Rock County's 5-year LWRM plan review, seconded by Grasshoff, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #6 Measuring the Impact of Nutrient Management Planning on Surface Water Quality in Wisconsin

Andrew Beguhl, Captain, US Air Force and Professor Marin Skidmore, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign presented study "Measuring the Impact of Nutrient Management Planning on Surface Water Quality in Wisconsin." A copy of the study and supporting presentation are available on LWCB's website: lwcb.wi.gov.

Item #7 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report

Coreen Fallat, DATCP, presented the 2022 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Report.

Item #8 LWCB Advisory Committee on Research-Committee Updates

Ron Grasshoff and Kirsten Biefeld, DATCP, discussed updates from the January 9th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Research; the Committee will reconvene on March 5th, 2024. Grasshoff reported: he is collaborating with Biefeld and Radatz to finalize a letter to additional UW Contacts provided by Arriaga regarding the Soil and Water Conservation Research and Educational Needs Survey Report; the committee started developing a work plan.

Item #9 Agency Reports

- a. FSA- Krauss submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 6, 2024 [meeting packet](#).
- b. NRCS- Gerlich submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 6, 2024 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Gerlich reported the State Conservationist position was announced in early winter and has closed; NRCS Wisconsin has increased staffing by 52 permanent staff since 2022; Local workgroup meetings have been online since Covid, in-person meetings will be offered starting in June in the different work areas.
- c. UW-CALS- Arriaga reported there are a number of UW staff working on agrivoltaics, if the board is interested in learning more, he can connect them with staff; UW will be conducting research on a new solar array that is pending near Madison; The Department of Agronomy and Horticulture have merged to form the Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences Department, within the new Department, there is a new undergraduate degree in agricultural ecosystems which will include a Land Management Tract which is expected to have practical training for employment at the county level; there are now 4 new faculty with Extension Appointments in UW-CALS with an interest in water quality issues as it pertains to agriculture.
- d. UW Madison- Extension- Radatz reported the Division of Extension is excited for new capacity in areas with water quality and conservation issues; Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference was in Wisconsin Dells in December, 385 attendees discussed the intersection of agriculture, water quality and conservation; Extension is half way through an [Ag and Water Quality Winter Webinar Series](#); the Division of Extension has filled many positions in the last 2-years, many look different than they have in the past and may serve different geographic areas, reconfigurations were need to create a sustainable model for staffing.
- e. WI Land + Water- Krueger reported: the association is gearing up for their [annual conference](#) on March 6th through the 8th in Green Bay; they will be holding in-person trainings for new LCC members following spring elections, in partnership with DATCP with hopes to conduct continuous trainings during 2-year tenures; New Employee trainings for LCC and agency staff are being evaluated for improvements.
- f. DOA- Potts reported the legislative session is wrapping up; DOA is monitoring the bills moving through the legislative process; once the legislative session wraps, they will start working on base budget reconciliation for the biennial budget; DNR submitted a s. 13.10 request to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) to access \$125 million dollars approved under the state 23-25 biennial budget to address PFAS contamination, the JFC has not yet announced a hearing date for the release of these funds.

- g. DATCP- Personette submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 6, 2024 [meeting packet](#). In addition Personette reported ATCP 50 has been referred to the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules; the availability of the Engineering Reserve Fund; Act 42 went into effect in December of 2023; the 2024 annual workshop for PLWPG will take place on February 20th.
- h. DNR- Schoen submitted a written report that is available online at the Land and Water Conservation Board website within the February 6, 2024 [meeting packet](#). In addition, Shoen reported TRM and UNPS grants applications are due April 15th.

Item #10 Planning for the April 2, 2024 LWCB meeting

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

- 5-year Review Ashland, Barron, Clark Counties
- Extension of DATCP Projects from 2023 to 2024
- Report on Transfers and Reallocations of 2023 Cost-Share Dollars (written report only)
- LWCB Advisory Committee on Research Updates, and related bylaw revisions
- Board Education Item

Item #11 Adjourn

Motion

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

These meeting minutes were approved at the April 2, 2024 meeting of the LWCB.