



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 15, Issue 4

Thursday, May 24, 2012

Greetings From Jim VandenBrook, WLWCA's New Executive Director

I'm Jim VandenBrook, and I've now been on the job for two weeks as the new Executive Director for the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association. It is quite an honor to represent so many dedicated conservation professionals, over 430 Land Conservation Committee supervisors and 340 County Land Conservation staff. No other statewide organization has both local technical and political conservation "boots on the ground" to help landowners and other citizens with wide-ranging concerns from water quality to soil erosion control, forestry, shoreline protection, invasive species, and more. WLWCA members are a well kept secret that people need to know more about. I'm going to make that a high priority.

I come from 26 years as a supervisor of water quality protection programs at DATCP involving both pesticide and nutrient management regulations and programming. Before that I worked as a Soil Conservationist for Trempealeau County and County Conservationist in Vernon County. I hope my connections payoff for WLWCA.

This is an important and significant time for conservation in Wisconsin as our resource base has more and more demands put upon it. Budget stresses are making it more challenging too. Fortunately, WLWCA has many allies that have stood by the organization and will help to advance the conservation mission in future. Expanding that list of partners will be another top priority.

Thanks and I look forward to working with you soon.

~Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director

Save the Date! WLWCA Annual Conference Scheduled March 11-13, 2013 at Chula Vista Resort

Join us March 11-13 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells for the first WLWCA Annual Conference as a merged organization of county land conservation committee supervisors and department staff. Planning is underway for this milestone event featuring many networking, professional improvement and conservation training opportunities.

Take a stake in the conference by joining the Professional Improvement Committee to help us plan the event. WLWCA is currently seeking both land conservation committee supervisors, department staff and partner advisors to help determine the conference theme and events. Contact pic@wlwca.org or the WLWCA office to join the committee. A link to an electronic poll to solicit membership to participate on the committee and select August meeting dates has been circulated via the PIC and Membership Google Groups.

See you next March in Wisconsin Dells!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Important Information About 2012 Land & Water Conservation Board Elections and Resolutions

Due to the next WLWCA annual conference not occurring until March 2013 and, that by statute, WLWCA needs to elect three LCC supervisors to the Land & Water Conservation Board (LWCB) in even years at an annual meeting, the WLWCA board of directors has decided that **the fall county conservationist meeting (date TBD for late September, early October) will include the 2012 WLWCA annual meeting.** LWCB elections, resolutions or other business that requires a vote of membership will be taken up. Day one will consist of a WLWCA board of directors meeting, lunch, the annual meeting of members, committee meetings and the beginning of a round-table/general session with an administrative or county conservationist focus. Day two will continue the round-table/general session topics with the same focus and also include lunch.

Each area association should plan to discuss any potential LWCB candidates and resolutions at their summer meeting/tour, rather than at their fall meeting as in years past. Each area is encouraged to nominate one candidate to serve on the LWCB, which is attached to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and advises DATCP and the Department of Natural Resources. Visit www.wlwca.org/landwaterboard.html for more

information. Note that **notification of your area's LWCB candidate must be submitted to WLWCA, along with a one-page bio, by Friday, September 7. This is also the same time that resolutions must be submitted to WLWCA in order to be considered at the 2012 WLWCA annual meeting.** Please contact the WLWCA office with any questions. Additional information and reminders will be sent out shortly.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Recent WLWCA Interim Board Actions – 2013 Dues

The WLWCA Interim Board of Directors was very busy and productive at its May 14th meeting. They cleared the way for the election of the new Board of Directors for the reorganized WLWCA which will operate under new by-laws bringing the old WLWCA and Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees together. Of immediate importance to counties, the Board approved extending the current county membership dues formula for 2013. That timely decision should help counties budget more effectively. Actual dollar amounts may fluctuate slightly based on changes in assessed valuation. The Board also approved 2013 individual memberships at \$50.

Official 2013 county dues notices will be sent to the counties very soon. Please contact the WLWCA office if you have questions. If your county still has not paid 2012 county dues, the deadline for this year is May 31.

~Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director

WLWCA List Serve and Committees Now Using Google Groups

WLWCA is in the process of developing a number of discussion boards via Google Groups. You may either contact these groups via your Email server or use your Google Account to sign up for these groups or view their messages, archives, and individual contact information for the Group members. Start a free Google account for your Email address by visiting accounts.google.com/NewAccount, or if you need an Email address, you can get a free one by visiting mail.google.com. Visit groups.wlwca.org to see the full list of WLWCA Google Groups.

You may also contact the WLWCA office to request membership to these Groups. You do not need a Google Account just to use or post to these Groups in Email. If you are a member of one of these groups, you can respond to emails by using "reply" to respond to the original sender, or "reply all" to also respond to the entire Group.

Use the Email addresses below to contact our current groups. All groups are moderated by WLWCA staff and messages will be visible to those moderators.

- **Membership:** members@wlwca.org (includes all LCD and LCC members who wish to participate)
- **Board of Directors:** bod@wlwca.org
- **County Conservationists:** countycons@wlwca.org (includes all county cons and the WLWCA BOD)
- **PIC Committee:** pic@wlwca.org
- **Technical Committee:** technical@wlwca.org
- **Administrative Committee:** admin@wlwca.org

In July, 2012 WLWCA plans to add more groups for area associations, LCC supervisors, technical staff and support staff. If you have ideas, questions, or feedback regarding the new groups, contact kirsten@wlwca.org. Thank you for your patience, flexibility and feedback as we transition to the new system!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Sign Up Now to Participate in Administrative, Professional Improvement, and Technical Committees

WLWCA is currently seeking LCC supervisors to participate in the Administrative, Professional Improvement and Technical Committees within the association. LCD staffers are also welcome to join, and many are already signed up. Find out more about the committees by visiting www.wlwca.org/committees_info.html. You can request to join the committees using your Google Account (see above), or by contacting the WLWCA office. Anyone interested is encouraged to participate. Pass the word on to your LCC supervisors and sign up today!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

SOC Transitions List Serve to Google Groups, Splits Communications by Urban and Ag Standards

The Standards Oversight Council is transitioning the list serve to Google Groups, and has split their list serve into two separate lists to ensure subscribers are receiving relevant information pertaining to their interests and professional experience. SOC uses these groups to:

- Solicit participation on work teams that revise or develop standards,
- Recruit initial reviewers of standards,
- Announce when standards are open for public comment,
- Receive input on technical standards that should be revised or developed, and
- Provide announcements regarding technical standards that support Wisconsin's soil and water conservation programs.

The Standards Oversight Council encourages broad participation in reviewing Wisconsin's technical standards.

Receive announcements regarding upcoming standards and our work by joining one or both of the following groups:

- The Urban Standards list will receive information regarding practice standards associated with non-agriculture, construction and existing development practices that support erosion control and stormwater management performance standards. WDNR is the main custodian of these standards.
- The Agricultural Standards list will receive information regarding practice standards associated with agriculture operations and land management that support the best practices for soil and water conservation. NRCS is the main custodian for the agriculture-related technical standards.

Join the groups by visiting the link below and recording your subscription preferences:

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dGF1YlVlb3ZOUIBIOXBaU0V5TmVHVkE6MQ

~Gini Knight, SOC Coordinator

Please Join Us at Conservation Observance Day in Vilas County!

Come and celebrate on Monday, June 11, as we honor the numerous youth conservation initiatives that occur in Wisconsin. The program includes exhibits, a picnic-style lunch, speakers and a camp tour. The event concludes with a very special tree planting ceremony to honor the late DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen. Please contact Carolyn Scholl at Vilas County LCD (715-479-3747, or cascho@co.vilas.wi.us) with any questions.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Poster and Speaking Contest Information and Forms Now Online

The 2012 Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest information is now available online. Find out about the two events, download forms or certificate templates, and send us information about your county contests by visiting eeinwisconsin.org/net/org/info.aspx?s=77819.0.0.2209, or by visiting www.wlwca.org, and selecting Programs/Youth Camps & Contests.

Is your county planning to hold a poster and/or speaking contest this year? Submit information about your contest to WLWCA by the electronic form at the bottom of each contest's webpage, or by contacting kirsten@wlwca.org at the WLWCA office. We'll add your county's contest information to our website.

The last day to complete area association poster and speaking contests is **Friday, October 26**. All posters and speaker registrations for the state competition must be submitted according to the deadlines and include the form from our website, **complete with parental or guardian signature**. *Pre-registration is required.*

WLWCA will hold its 55th annual poster and speaking contest judging on Saturday, November 3 from 9am-12:30pm at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. Please contact kirsten@wlwca.org or the WLWCA office to volunteer.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Don't forget! Please pay WLWCA membership dues by May 31, 2012. Contact kirsten@wlwca.org if you need a duplicate copy of your county invoice. Thank you for your support!



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Calendar of Events

SOC Meeting, Madison	May 30
WLWCA Membership Dues Deadline	May 31
SAA Meeting, Mt. Horeb	May 31
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Jun 5
WLWCA Technical Committee Meeting, Stevens Point	Jun 8
NCLWCA Meeting, Antigo	Jun 8
NARC&DC Biennial Conference, Madison	Jun 10-12
Conservation Observance Day, Eagle River	Jun 11
WLWCA Youth Conservation Camp, Eagle River	Jun 12-15
SELWCA Meeting, Pewaukee	Jun 13
NASECA-WI Field Event, Evansville	Jun 14
WCLWCA Meeting & Summer Tour, Ellsworth	Jun 14
Area Association Appointments to WLWCA BOD Due	Jun 20
Sand Lake Conservation Camp, Crivitz	Jun 21-23
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Stevens Point	Jul 9

For more information, visit www.wlwca.org/eventscalender.html

WLWCA Board of Directors

Charles Wagner Kewaunee County LCC	Dorothy Burwell Walworth County LCC
Kurt Calkins Columbia County LCD	Chris Arnold Columbia County LCD
Thomas Rudolph Oneida County LCC	David Hammer Lafayette County LCC
Greg Baneck Outagamie County LCD	Paul Backhaus Washington County LCD
Kay McKenzie Douglas County LCC	Herbert Cornell Vernon County LCC
Derek Kavanaugh Green Lake County LCD	Mary Jo Gingras Iron County LCD
Joe Piechowski Waushara County LCC	Tami Schraufnagel Eau Claire County LCC
Carla Masten Outagamie County LCD	Ben Wojahn Vernon County LCD

WLWCA Staff

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