



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

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Webinar Series Set on Water Quality Trading and Adaptive Management

By: Amanda Minks, DNR

Adaptive management and water quality trading may be primarily geared toward helping wastewater dischargers meet phosphorus limits, but these tools may present opportunities for Wisconsin farmers and for the land conservation staff who advise them.

A webinar series starting in December 2013 is aimed at helping LCD staff and others learn more about these approaches and whether they are a good option to achieve conservation and other goals.

The webinars complement the guidance documents we released earlier this year for adaptive management and water quality trading.

We hope you'll join us for the live webcasts or view them later at your convenience. We believe that LCDs can help achieve their conservation mission while finding valuable allies and ultimately funding sources as a result of adaptive management and water quality trading partnerships.

- **Webinar 1- Introduction to Water Quality Trading and Adaptive Management**
- Date: 12/17/2013
- Time: 9-10:30 am

- **Webinar 2- Finding and Quantifying Offsets for Water Quality Trading and Adaptive Management**
- Date: 1/22/2014
- Time: 9-10:30 a.m.

- **Webinar 3- Developing a Successful Trading or Adaptive Management Plan**
- Date: 3/19/2014
- Time: 9-10:30 a.m.

- **Webinar 4- Implementing and Verifying Offsets for Trading and Adaptive Management**
- Date: 4/9/2014
- Time: 9-10:30 a.m.

If you're interested in participating in the webinar series or in downloading available guidance, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/>, keywords "adaptive management" or "water quality trading." Adaptive management or water quality trading questions may also be submitted in advance of the webinars to Amanda.Minks@Wisconsin.gov, 608-264-9223.

An adaptive management and water quality trading presentation will also be offered at the WLWCA annual conference in March.

WLWCA's Annual Conference is Right Around the Corner!

Please **SAVE the DATE** and plan to join us at our 61st annual conference on **March 10-12, 2014** at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin. Over 30 excellent sessions are scheduled that will be informative and valuable to all county staff and supervisors. Session topics include: Adaptive Management & Water Quality Trading, Cropping Practices, Soil Health & Organic Pasture Management, Waste Management Standards, Agency Partner Updates on Rules and 590 Standards, SNAP Plus Hands-On Training, Conservation Photography Techniques, Evaluation of Water Techniques & Examples of How Counties Can Use the Data, Managing Nitrates in Groundwater, Farmland Preservation Implementation, Elk Herd Management, Industrial Sand Mining Ordinances and MUCH MORE! Coming Soon: **Watch for session descriptions and information on how to sign-up for the conference! Registration materials will be available Mid-December.**

2014 Land & Water Conservation Board Elections & Resolutions

WLWCA is responsible for electing three Land Conservation Committee members to serve on the state LWCB. The election will take place during our March 2014 annual meeting. In December we will distribute the bylaws of the LWCB and request that each WLWCA Area Association nominate one candidate. The Election Policy, timeline and additional information can be found at <http://www.wlwca.org/landwaterboard.html>.

Counties and areas wishing to have their resolutions considered at our annual meeting must have them submitted to WLWCA, along with the Resolution Attachment, by Friday, February 21, 2014. If you would like your resolution to be considered at the national level at the 2014 NACD meeting, it must be received at the WLWCA office by Friday, November 22, so the WLWCA board can recommend action at their December 5 meeting. Details can be found at <http://www.wlwca.org/resolutions.html>. Please contact Chris if you have any questions.

2014 WLWCA Conservation Awards Reminder

Please consider taking a few moments to nominate someone who has gone above and beyond in the field of conservation. A list of offered awards and other details can be found at <http://www.wlwca.org/consawards.html>. *Entries should be submitted before December 31, 2013*, and winners will be recognized at the annual WLWCA Conference.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Youth and Education Committee Update

WLWCA has formed a Youth and Education Committee to oversee and expand on the current education programs and to increase conservation awareness among youth across the state. The committee is made up of thirteen members who are passionate about advancing conservation and youth education. The committee elected Tracy Arnold from Wood County as Chair, and Stephanie Egner from Washington County as Secretary. The Rules and Guidelines for the 2014 Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contests have been updated and can be downloaded at the WLWCA website at www.wlwca.org. Local contests will need to be completed by the end of January 2014 and the area contests will need to be completed by the end of February 2014. Finalists from the speaking contest will participate at the WLWCA Annual Conference in March in Appleton with the winners speaking at the conference luncheon on Monday, March 10. If you have additional questions or need more information about the upcoming contests contact Kim Warkentin, Youth Education Coordinator at kim@wlwca.org. Stay tuned for more updates on other exciting youth education programs and opportunities.

~Kim Warkentin, Office Manager/Youth Education Coordinator

Standards Oversight Council Update

The latest version of the WDNR's conservation practice standard for permeable pavements has been released for comment until November 27th. This new conservation practice standard is focused on achieving water quality benefits associated with compliance with the WDNR's storm water quality performance goals for new development, redevelopment and existing urban development. This standard does not address structural and storm water flood control aspects of permeable pavement systems.

The SOC team carefully considered initial review comments from across the country and incorporated several revisions. Upon completion of the broad review, the team is expected to submit a final draft to WDNR by February of 2014. View and comment on draft Permeable Pavement Standard, 1008 and Technical Note at <http://socwisconsin.org/2013/pp-standard-comment/>. The broad review is open for comments from now until Wednesday, November 27th.

~Gini Knight, Standards Oversight Council Coordinator

Senate Bill 349: "Regulatory Certainty Act"

Senate Bill 349 preempts local authority over a number of activities associated with non-metallic mining in order to eliminate what the industry views as a patchwork of local regulations. These local requirements, currently under town and county authority, are said to hinder the industry which has rapidly expanded industrial sand mining in the last few years, especially in western Wisconsin. On October 24th, I gave testimony on behalf of WLWCA in opposition to Senate Bill 349 primarily because the bill removes local environmental protections that are expressly outlined in the Non-metallic Mining Reclamation rules, NR 135 Wis. Admin Code. Other provisions of SB 349 preempt some existing zoning requirements, and would prohibit any permits beyond reclamation permits. Further, local jurisdictions would be restricted in their ability to be reimbursed for damages to public roads by requiring a contract prior to the occurrence of damage.

The bill proponents argue that Wisconsin DNR can consistently provide all the oversight needed. Unfortunately, DNR does not have staff to realistically provide the oversight to develop the number of needed mine reclamation plans, nor do its due diligence related to environmental monitoring. That is why NR 135 provided model ordinances for local units of government to implement this rule, as it does for many of its other environmental rules. DNR does no significant non-metallic mine reclamation planning, monitoring, or implementation. The involvement of county government to implement state rules and standards is the norm, not the exception.

NR 135.08 Groundwater protection is the existing rule which specifically authorizes groundwater protection for non-metallic mining, including groundwater quantity and quality concerns, and delegates those duties to local units of government.

Monitoring is clearly the only way to assess groundwater quantity and quality concerns but would be prohibited by this bill for counties and towns. How could you know if the water table is affected or if quality is compromised if you don't monitor?

We believe that without local involvement, there would be an even greater outcry from the communities if they do not have data to allay fears. Fear will drive the imposition of moratoria. Preemption of local control will lead to greater conflict, not less.

SB 349 is not yet out of committee and will likely not see a floor vote until March, according to bill sponsors. Assembly Speaker Vos has indicated that other bills will likely have priority in the Assembly so it is uncertain how quickly this bill will move forward. The bill's author, Senator Tom Tiffany, has stated that he intends to listen to all the concerns, suggest changes, and move the bill forward in the next session. So, look for this issue to come back to life come the spring.

~ Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director



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Calendar of Events

WLWCA Executive Committee Meeting, Appleton	Nov. 13
WI State Technical Committee Meeting, Madison	Nov. 21
Land & Water Conservation Board Meeting, Madison	Dec. 3
Professional Development Curriculum Team Meeting	Dec. 4
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Wisconsin Rapids 10:00am – 2:00pm	Dec. 5
Technical Committee Meeting	Dec. 13
2014 WLWCA Annual Conference, Appleton	Mar. 10-12

For more information and events, visit www.wlwca.org/eventscalendar.html

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