



July 22, 2015

Summer is a busy time of year, especially in the biennium. Though the ink has dried on the budget, the boots in the fields are muddier than ever.

Significant Victory for Conservation in State Budget



On July 12, 2015 Governor Walker signed the 2015-17 Biennial State Budget into law. Land and water conservationists should be proud of their efforts which helped to restore \$675,000 of the proposed \$815,900 in annual cuts to county land conservation staffing. Few conservation programs saw increases to their base allocations, and this was one of them. Locally led conservation still matters to our legislators and we thank them for their support, in particular Senator Sheila Harsdorf who championed the restoration of funds as a member of the Joint

REMINDER

WI Land+Water forwarding address service will soon expire. Be sure to change your address book to reflect the change:

131 W Wilson St #601
Madison, WI 53703

Quick Links

[Upcoming meetings and events](#)

[Training Opportunities](#)

[Submit your success story](#)

Member Spotlight



Brooke Muhlack Growing up on a dairy farm in southwestern Wisconsin laid the foundation that drove Buffalo County Conservationist, Brooke Muhlack to a career in conservation. Now with the county for just under three years,

Committee on Finance. But it was the grass roots work of county conservation staff and supervisors talking to their state legislators, and the widespread support of our partner conservation groups that made this issue important and worthy of funding. We also thank the [Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation](#) and [Wisconsin Farmers Union](#) for their support. This comprehensive effort made my lobbying work, along with our contract lobbyist Shawn Pfaff and Dan Bahr from [Wisconsin Counties Association](#) so much more effective.

An excellent summary of conservation issues in the budget, as approved by Joint Finance, was put together by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters at this link:

<http://conservationvoters.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/20150706-Final-JFC-Budget-Memo.pdf>

The summary does not include the Governor's vetoes which unfortunately included the defunding of capacity grants to our partner conservation non-profits by over \$1 million, including [River Alliance](#), [Wisconsin Lakes](#), and [Gathering Waters](#). Further, a policy provision was inserted into the budget which severely undermined local control of shoreland management authority in NR 115. But on the whole, the restoration of county staff funding was a major conservation budget victory.

Join the fun at these upcoming events!

RSVP for
Conservation
Observance Day
TODAY!

Conservation Farmer of the Year, Ralph & Shelia Petersheim are hosting this year's Conservation Observance Day. Join

WI Land+Water and Vernon County Land & Water Conservation Department in celebrating conservation with the Petersheim's on Friday, August 14 from 9:00am - 2:45pm. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP to smcdowell@vernoncounty.org or 608-637-5484.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Nominate your own conservation champions to be honored at the 2016 WI Land+Water Conference. Award categories include: Conservation Farmer of the Year, Outstanding Conservation Employee (three categories), Outstanding Supervisor, Conservation Steward, and Special Recognition/Friend of Conservation. We've made the nomination process simple, so please consider recognizing someone who has gone above and beyond to help conserve Wisconsin's natural resources. Nominations are due by December 31, 2015. [Visit our website for more information.](#)

Brooke and her county conservation department have been busy restoring bluff prairies and trout streams, monitoring water quality, assisting landowners in managing nutrients and installing conservation practices, and cleaning up civilian conservation camps. We asked Brooke to share her experiences and thoughts on the future of conservation. [Read the full interview here.](#)

Stay Connected

Join our member listserv!
Connect with your colleagues across the state. Having trouble receiving emails through our LCC or LCD lists? Contact [Christina](#).

Keep Up with Committees
Review their meeting minutes at the links below.

[Great Lakes](#)

[Leg/Admin](#)

[Public Outreach](#)

[Professional Improvement](#)

[Technical](#)

[Youth Ed](#)



Join our Listserv!
Get updates on upcoming training opportunities by joining the SITCOM listserv. To receive the training newsletter or promote an upcoming training, contact [Christina](#).

Volunteers still needed for Farm Technology Days Represent WI Land+Water at this year's [Farm Tech Days, August 25-27 in Dane County](#). Work the booth for a few hours and get a free pass to the event! Contact [Christina](#) for available volunteer shifts.



Know your standards
Keep up-to-date on the latest standard revisions by [visiting the Standards Oversight Council's website](#).

Thanks for celebrating the Great Lakes with us!

The Great Lakes Committee hosted their first Annual Meeting in Ashland County on June 10-11. Area experts highlighted conservation projects and new initiatives in the Lake Superior basin. [Pictures from the event, including a guided trip along the Bad River Sloughs can be found here.](#)



Program Updates

Have a standard update idea? Let SOC know!

Technical Standards Survey

Every two years, the Wisconsin Standards Oversight Council (SOC) invites technical experts from across the state to provide input on stormwater, agricultural, and land management technical standards. Future work on updating existing or creating new BMP technical standards is based on priorities identified through this online survey. This is a great opportunity for field staff, engineers, municipal reviewers, and other technicians to use their field experience to improve the state standards.



Please complete this short, 12-question survey by Friday August 7th. socwisconsin.org/get-involved/survey/

NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard - 2nd Broad Review starts July 31

The SOC 590 NM revision team has further revised the draft WI NRCS 590 practice standard based on the public comments received from the first broad review. The requirements for the Winter Manure Spreading Plan and Winter Runoff Risk Assessment were most significantly

changed from the last draft standard. The team will be releasing the most recent draft practice standard for open comment on July 31, 2015 to August 31, 2015 at socwisconsin.org. The final WI NRCS 590 practice standard is scheduled to be released before the end of 2015.

Upcoming Trainings

August 12 & 13 at
Pioneer Farms

UW - Platteville is hosting a two-day course in farming basics designed for county and agency staff interested in learning more about farming to better communicate with landowners.

[Space is limited, register today.](#)

[Click here](#) or contact [Christina Anderson](#) for more information.



Organic Farming Survey

We need your feedback!

Interested in how you can help organic farms improve conservation efforts? We are working with MOSES to develop a training for county staff to better understand organic farming systems. Please take a moment to [fill out this quick survey](#) and share your suggestions for the upcoming training.



Register for UWEX's Conservation

Professional Training Program website today!

Find and track your conservation training needs at <http://conservation-training.uwex.edu/>

Important links from CPTP include:

- [SITCOM homepage](#)
- [Submit a training you're providing](#)
- [Submit training need](#)
- [Connect with SITCOM](#)



Conservation Professional Training Program

Conservation Camps a Big Success

Sand Lake Conservation Camp

The 10th annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp held June 24-26 at Camp Bird near Crivitz was a huge success with over 95 campers representing 28 Wisconsin and 3 Upper Michigan counties. Marinette County Land & Water Conservation District (LWCD) organized the event for youth entering 6-8th grades in the fall. Activities included aquatic macroinvertebrates, herptiles, water pollution and conservation, wetland habitat education, and much more.

WI Land+Water Conservation Camp

The WI Land+Water Conservation Camp was held at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River on June 22-26 for students entering 9-12th grades. Campers spent a week participating in educational

conservation activities such as bird banding and bird ecology, pontoon classroom - aquatic studies, toad and frogs,



an organic cranberry farm tour, wetland ecology including a hike in a bog. Campers also worked with the National Forest Service on a trout stream restoration project in the Nicolet National Forest.

To read more about the conservation camps go to:

<http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/youth-conservation-camps>

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