



COMMITTEE REPORT 2016



GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE

The Great Lakes Committee was formed in March of 2014 to support, promote and develop county land and water programming to protect, conserve and enhance natural resources in the Great Lakes Basin. The committee provides a forum for communications among land conservation committee members and land conservation staff on topics impacting the Great Lakes.

2016 Highlights:

The Great Lakes Committee held four meetings in 2016 with roundtable discussions on a variety of topics pertaining to Great Lakes issues and approved a mini-grant. The committee intends to continue to offer mini-grants in 2017. The committee was unable to convene its annual meeting because of numerous conflicts including the natural disaster in the Lake Superior counties, but expects to host an annual meeting or conference in 2017.



Members

Steve Keith
Milwaukee County
(Chair)

Greg Coulthurst
Door County
(Co-Chair)

Davina Bonness
Kewaunee County

Greg Cleereman
Marinette County

Ken Dolata
Oconto County

Scott Frank
Shawano County

Tom Fratt
Ashland County

Andy Holschbach
Ozaukee County

Christine Ostern
Douglas County

Heather Palquist
Iron County

Paul Sebo
Washington County

Penny Pohle
WI Land+Water

Agency Advisors:

Donalea Dinsmore
DNR

Mark Jenks
DATCP

LEGISLATIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE

The Legislative/Administrative Committee reviews and takes action as deemed necessary on any proposed legislation, administrative rules, or other policy and procedure that may significantly impact the administration of conservation programs. They are also charged with initiating action that may be needed to improve the administration of conservation programs and coordinating a statewide information exchange among all county land conservation department administrators.

2016 Highlights:

- Led the creation of a new Wisconsin Land+Water ad hoc committee to address the most pressing concerns about the annual work plan, chaired by Perry Lindquist
- Formed another Wisconsin Land+Water ad hoc committee to study and make recommendations on changes proposed by the DNR to their Surface Water Grant Program, chaired by Carolyn Scholl
- Began discussions with DNR staff regarding their stricter interpretation of the new vs existing farm criteria when determining Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant eligibility
- Worked with DNR staff to better understand and facilitate timely Chapter 60 wetland permitting on conservation projects
- Provided input on the development of ATCP50 and NR151

Members

Kurt Calkins
Columbia County
(Chair)

Greg Cleereman
Marinette County
Vice Chair & Secretary

Greg Banek
Outagamie County

Amy Callis
Dane County

Carl Chenoweth
Dane County

Paul Daigle
Marathon County

Diane Hanson
Marathon County

Melissa Keenan
Sauk County

Perry Lindquist
Waukesha County

Dale Macheel
Dodge County

Kriss Marion
Lafayette County

Dan Masterpole
Chippewa County

Monte Osterman
Racine County

Christine Ostern
Douglas County

Tim Ritten
Polk County

Carolyn Scholl
Vilas County

Lynda Schweikert
Grant County

Ray Soper
Taylor County

Dave Solin
Langlade County

Jim VandenBrook
WI Land+Water

Ben Wojahn
Vernon County

Agency Advisors:

Mike Gilbertson
DNR

Coreen Fallat
DATCP



PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Public Outreach Committee is charged with developing and implementing an outreach plan to promote county land and water conservation programs and services. The goal of the Public Outreach Committee is to increase public awareness and support for county land and water conservation efforts.

2016 Highlights:

- Published 13 success stories
- Increased presence on social media, with more than 600 page likes on Facebook and our most popular post reaching 2,000 people
- Added four profiles to the “Know Your Conservation Member” series
- Met with a journalist to discuss ways to strengthen relationships with the press and get conservation stories in the news
- Launched a new media website (wislandwatermedia.org) to better display success stories and event photos
- Met with the Legislative/Administrative Committee to discuss ways the Public Outreach Committee could support messaging about the biennial budget and other policy items

Members

Paul Backhaus Washington County (Chair)	Joe Strupp Jefferson County (Secretary)
Christina Anderson WI Land+Water	Greg Cleereman Marinette County
Chase Cummings Pepin County	Derek Kavanaugh Green Lake County
Amanda Knox Manitowoc County	John Krell Rusk County
Dani Santry Calumet County	Jim VandenBrook WI Land+Water
Ben Wojahn Vernon County	Kayla Zacharias WI Land+Water

Agency Advisor:
Coreen Fallat
DATCP

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT

CONFERENCE PLANNING

The WI Land+Water membership is comprised of a diverse group of individuals with varying backgrounds, skills and roles within their counties. The Professional Improvement Committee’s goal is to provide a mix of topics and interests for all attendees of the Annual Conference. They work with the Technical Committee to bring forth ideas which are incorporated into the conference breakout sessions. The conference provides valuable networking opportunities, as well as space to be re-inspired by our passion for conservation. They welcome anybody that is interested in helping out. Please contact Dale Konkol with questions.

MEMBER TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships are available with the goal of helping land conservation department staff and committee members achieve their professional improvement and leadership goals. They are designed to help cover the expenses of WI Land+Water members who would otherwise be unable to afford to attend workshops, conferences and other training opportunities. In 2016, four scholarships were awarded totaling \$1,350. If you have specific questions or would like to apply please contact Patty Benedict, Portage County LCD, Scholarship Coordinator.

RAFFLE

Please be generous with your purchase of raffle tickets at the conference, as it supports our scholarship program.

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Please take a few minutes to complete the conference evaluation located in your conference folder. An electronic version will also be emailed via the listservs after the conference. Your feedback is important and will help plan for the next conference.

CONSERVATION AWARDS

The PIC is responsible for promoting and judging the Conservation Awards. It’s not too early to start thinking about nominating someone for the 2018 Conference!

2016 Winners

Outstanding Conservation Employee - Administrative Assistant: Patty Benedict
 Outstanding Conservation Employee - Technician: Greg Leonard
 Outstanding County Conservationist: Marie Graupner
 Conservation Partner: Pat Murphy
 Conservation Farmer: David & Leslie Meuer
 Conservation Steward: Dave Carlson
 Outstanding Supervisor: Dick Gilles

Members

Dale Konkol Door County (Chair)	Lisa Burns Washburn County (Vice Chair)
Patty Benedict Portage County (Secretary)	Dan O’Connell Portage County Technical Committee Rep.
Greg Cleereman Marinette County	Karsen Gosh Sheboygan County
Kelly Maginnis Columbia County	Chris Schlutt WI Land+Water
Geoff Schramm Ozaukee County	Jim VandenBrook WI Land+Water
Kim Warkentin WI Land+Water	Kerrie Wheeler Juneau County

Agency Advisors:

Corinne Johnson DNR	John Exo UW-Extension
Coreen Fallat DATCP	Lori Van Hulle NRCS



Annual Conference

The Technical Committee is charged with addressing issues relating to land and water conservation technical activities. The committee's role is to provide input and support to WI Land+Water committees on technical issues and to guide and promote training that provides additional experience for conservation staff. The committee meets about four times per year and is always looking for more members.

2016 Highlights:

- Participated in a workgroup that helped draft a DNR guidance document for Determining Significant Discharges from Feedlots for Compliance with Manure Management Prohibitions
- Updated the 635 Vegetative Treatment Area (VTA) standard
- Held annual Technical Tour, which was hosted by Dunn County and had around 50 attendees
- Helped plan sessions for the 2017 Annual Conference
- Developed a technical photo gallery through WI Land+Water to help technical staff around the state share specifics about projects (available at wislandwatermedia.org)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Members

Paul Sebo Washington County (Chair)	Matt Albright Marquette County
Ben Dufford Bayfield County	Paul Frederick Kewaunee County
Brian Goepfert Juneau County	Matt Hanewall LaCrosse County
Paul Klose Marinette County	Bob Michael Monroe County
Dan O'Connell Portage County	Jennifer Thieme WI Land+Water
Agency Advisors:	
Mike Gilbertson DNR	Matthew Woodrow DATCP

YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thank you for your participation in 2016!

Without the committee members the current youth education programs would not be where they are statewide. A lot of effort on their part went into bringing these programs back. The dedication of each and every person on the committee is greatly appreciated - thank you for allowing them to help. You have stepped up with sponsorships for conservation camps and WI Envirothon, as well as facilitated local area poster and speaking contests. Your continued efforts are helping bring back youth conservation education programs and those effects are felt statewide.

Poster & Speaking Contest

2016 was the third year having combined the poster and speaking contest to kick off the annual WI Land+Water conference, and it was very successful yet again. Databases for county and area poster and speaking contest dates continue to receive a great deal of traffic and positive comments from students, teachers and parents. The State Speaking Contest was held just prior to the start of conference. First place winners from each division spoke to over 350 resource professionals at the conference luncheon. Posters were displayed and judged by all conference attendees. Thank you to all those that took time to vote for their favorites.

Conservation Camps

The Sand Lake Conservation Camp was held at Camp Bird near Crivitz, WI in June with more than 72 campers representing 25 Wisconsin and two Upper Michigan counties, and 24 camp staff participating. The WI Land+Water Conservation Camp was held in Manitowish Waters in June with more than 25 campers from Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. Thank You to the conservation staff members from across the state who volunteered to be counselors at these camps - your commitment to make them a lifelong memory for the campers is greatly appreciated!

Envirothon

The 2016 Envirothon was a huge success. We continue to add new schools and figure out the logistics of a larger event. The FFA partnership continues to be successful, and presentations at their annual conference are always well attended. Committee members have been very active in acquiring sponsorships and grants year round to help support this event. Thank you to those counties that stepped up and checked the \$50 sponsor box on the WI Land+Water dues. The event will be held April 7th, 2017 at Central Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI. Volunteers are confirmed and creating, proofreading and formatting tests, and preparing for Envirothon 2017.

Youth Education Promotions

The committee continues to use the Envirothon and WI Land+Water Facebook pages for promotion of events. Updated Youth Education brochures and Wisconsin Envirothon brochures are currently on display and being distributed throughout that state via Youth Education Committee members. Presentations are being done across the state to promote core youth education programs at the county levels along with conferences such as Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE) and WI Land+Water annual conference.

MEMBERS

Kim Warkentin WI Land+Water Director	Karyn Eckert Taylor County	Kelly Nechuta Sawyer County
Tracy Arnold Wood County Chair	Kirstie Heidenreich Trempealeau County	Heather Palmquist Iron County
Stephanie Egner Washington County	Lee Jennings Brown County	Michele Sadauskas Oneida County
Anne Bartels Marinette County	Kelly Maginnis Columbia County	Joshua Saykally Waushara County
Patty Benedict Portage County	Sarah McDowell Vernon County	Nikki Truymen Outagamie County
Lisa Burns Washburn County	Aleisha Miller St Croix County	Zach Wilson Iron County



WI Land+Water Camp Counselors at Lake Superior

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN

The Mississippi River Basin Committee is the newest WI Land+Water committee. While the guiding principles are yet to be determined, the motivation for creating the committee is to bring counties together to collaborate on a basin-wide approach. The MRB Committee met in March 2016 at the annual conference, and in July and December 2016 during the County Conservationist meetings. Information sharing among the members regarding individual county efforts to reduce sediment and phosphorus deliveries to the Mississippi River were the main discussion topics. Additionally, significant discussion occurred on GIS-based tracking systems for conservation practice installation and the related pollutant reductions.



Members

Rodney Webb
Pierce County
(Chair)

Chase Cummings
Pepin County

Dwight Jelle
Pepin County

Gaylord Olson
Jackson County

Jennifer Thieme
WI Land+Water

Kelly Jacobs
Eau Claire County
(Secretary)

Dave Ferris
Burnett County

Don Koerner
Clark County

Dan Prestebak
Dunn County

Ben Wojahn
Vernon County

Jim Arch
Clark County

Tom Fratt
Ashland County

Dan Masterpole
Chippewa County

Tom Schultz
Buffalo County

Tyler Gruetzmaker
Barron County

Carrie Olson
Buffalo County

Gregg Stangl
La Crosse County