



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 26, 2021	
Start Time: 9:07 A.M.	End Time: 11:35 A.M.
Location:	Zoom Meeting Only
<p>Committee Members: Ken Pozorski, Marathon Co.; Matt Albright, Vernon Co.; Ben Dufford, Bayfield Co.; Shawn Esser, Dane Co. (Vice Chair); Paul Fredrich, Kewaunee Co.; Brian Goepfert, Juneau Co.; Mike Haase, Winnebago Co.; Matt Hanewall, La Crosse Co. (Chair); Paul Klose, Marinette Co.; Dan O’Connell, Portage Co.; Erik Heagle, Grant Co. (Secretary); Tina Barone, Dunn Co.</p> <p><u>Non-Voting Advisors:</u> Matthew Woodrow – DATCP, Mike Gilbertson – DNR, Eric Hurley - NRCS</p>	
<p>WI Land+Water Staff: Kate Brunner, SOC Coordinator.</p>	
<p>In Attendance: Pozorski, Albright, Dufford, Esser, Hanewall, Klose, O’Connell, Heagle, Barone, Woodrow, Gilbertson, Brunner, Melanie Leet-Winnebago Co, Sarah Topp-Marinette Co, Greg Leonard-Eau Claire Co, Bob Micheel-Monroe Co, Kristin Fochringer-Buffalo Co, Chris Clayton-WI DNR, Molly Richardson-WI DNR</p> <p>Absent Committee Members: Fredrich, Goepfert, Haase, Hurley</p>	
<p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI Land+Water meetings are open meetings. Individuals may connect by way of videoconference or dial in by phone. • Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair. 	
<p>Next Meeting Date: June 4, 2021</p>	

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE.

- **Call to order at 9:07**
 - **Roll Call - adopt agenda.** Motion to adopt 1st-Heagle, 2nd-Esser
 - **Approve previous meeting minutes-** Unanimous approval of previous meetings minutes by the committee.
- **2021 WI Land and Water Conference Review (All)-** Great job done by everyone at WLWCA for putting on a successful virtual conference. Attendance was up with the virtual format. Almost all the sessions were recorded and available to view for about the next 3 months. Recorded sessions are available through the same site as the conference. The Tech Roundtables were the most popular breakout sessions by attendance.
- **WI Land + Water News (Brunner)-** Kristen Teston was hired as the new communications manager replacing Elliot Meyer. A new work study student has started and currently is assisting Penny Pohle. Matt Krueger sent an email to all members about updating the associations tracking log for people on external committees representing WLWCA. Please respond back if you haven’t done so.

- **SOC Update (Brunner)**- The Horizontal Directional drilling team (DNR standard) is looking at putting the standard out this summer for review with a public comment period this fall. The tech standard assessment survey will be out this summer. Shooting for a July release and will be open for a month. All comments will go to SOC and whatever agency is specific to the standard (DNR, NRCS, etc.).
- **Status of the Revision to the Stream Restoration Standards (Brunner)**- The 4 standards (395,580,582,584) have been a big undertaking for the team. 580 (streambank and shoreline protection) has been the biggest standard to work with. 600' of continuous riprap work has been shortened to match with the DNR's 500' limit in the permit options. 582 is considered the restoration standard and will require additional engineering. Items to take note of for 582 and additional engineering criteria are 1,000' for riprap in a ¼ mile stretch and critical sites. Critical sites can be listed as slopes over 0.8%, bridges, culverts, and poor soils to name a few.

A question was posed on if a project has been pre-approved prior to the standards changing, do the need to be updated? Answer- use the current standard at the time of approval for the project. The new standards will fully go into effect once everything has final approval.

The current round of comments for the standards are in the initial review period. The broad review period will hopefully start the first week of April and last throughout the month.

- **NR 151 Targeted Nitrate Performance Standard Update (Chris Clayton)**- Currently, the standard update is in the 30-day comment period for economic analysis which closes on April 10th. After the economic analysis, the update will move through to the public comment period (June or July) and the public hearing. All previous information (meetings, power points, documentation, etc.) can be found on the DNR's website by searching NR151 Nitrate.

The goal of the standard is to help prevent leaching of nitrates into the groundwater. 6.2 million acres or 43% of agricultural land in the state is targeted in this standard. Many of these areas are those identified in 590 as N-restricted soils. About 6,000 acres have also been identified as wellhead protection areas. The current enforcement level of nitrates is greater than or equal to 10 mg/L.

Some items being looked at in the standard are nitrate leaching calculation methods, possible additional performance standards, and what tools do we currently have and how good are they to use. Limitations of liquid manure applications with a September 1st cut-off date are being looked at with adding a fall application up to 25% of total farm manure.

- **BMP Implementation Tracking System (BITS) Update (Molly Richardson)**- BITS currently is used for MDV submissions and is becoming the DNR's online tool for submitting BMP implementation data (under ongoing development). The TRM Grant module is now included as well. Molly and the BITS team are always open to feedback about the system.

MDV & TRM modules are available now with NOD, Urban NPS Grants, NR151 Compliance Tracking, and TMDL monitoring being added in the future. The goal of BITS is to provide an easy and efficient way of submitting information to the DNR, getting GIS based spatial data, increased transparency between organizations and stakeholders, and to provide tracking tools. BITS help reduce paper and PDF forms, allow greater ease in accessing submitted data and become more user friendly.

This program is the first statewide geographical repository of NPS practices. It requires submission of spatial data which may help identify high impact future project locations. BITS also show how NPS funding is being used statewide. This provides accountability to taxpayers and interested parties. By allowing analysis of statewide BMP data, BITS can aid in securing funding by demonstrating the value of programs.

BITS should be used for MDV's by county requests, watershed plan submission and annual reports. For TRM, BITS should be used for final reports. To access BITS, a WAMS ID is needed.

Major updates to the BITS system will be sent through the WLWCA Listserv or checkout the DNR BITS webpage for further details.

- **Status on the Verification of Depth to Bedrock Standard (Woodrow)-** The standard is ready to go. Any current problems are logistical (mapping, etc.). No additional technical changes have been made. Currently, DATCP is working on a certification process and a standardized form for submittal. In mid-late April, meetings and surveys will be done with the approximately 15 affected counties of the standard.

Looking at getting the standard in ATCP 50, hoping to bring to the board in late July. There is a 30-month long process for an ATCP 50 rule update change.

- **“Significant Discharge” (Feedlot vs. Processed Wastewater) Guidance Document(s): Take 3! (Gilbertson)-** The December meeting comments were taken to the program attorney. DNR would like to stay away from adding additional definitions. Would add “things to see from a significant discharge”. A request for a separate tool on information for how to prepare for a site visit was brought up. Per the attorney, processed wastewater already has language in NR151 and should be referenced if it's an issue. NR151.055 is processed wastewater in the standard. Significant discharge is based off the processed wastewater standard. Significant discharge is trying to be accomplished as a separate section.

After some discussion, a few ideas were tossed out. Can there be a separate tool for site visit preparation? Can reference be shown in the doc on where to look for processed wastewater? Currently, DNR is looking at getting something out and reviews/changes can be made later. Looking at moving forward with guidance as it pertains to significant discharge while keeping processed wastewater separate.

The current doc is as far as DNR can go per their legal team. The committee agreed to let DNR do the best they can under legal guidance, something must move forward. Woodrow added that not everyone from the guidance development team is either still in their same position or agency. Should all of the names be in the final draft? O'Connell added is there enough consistency or uniformity in the doc to be statewide?

Other mentions were to offer additional training to go more in depth, use the guidance document as a training reference, or try to organize it more so legal is happy. Gilbertson will present the final draft of the significant discharge guidance document at the June meeting.

- **SITCOM (AITCOM) Update (O' Connell)-** More members have been added since utilizing AITCOM, 16-17 members with 5 being AICOM area reps. The statewide training needs assessment will be sent out again. The goal is to refine responses down to specific training courses. The hope is to get more detailed trainings and topics.

Currently, lots of trainings are out for culverts and stream crossings. Looking to see if a general culvert training is needed.

- **Recruitment of Technical Committee Member from the SE Region (Hanewall)-** Matt Hanewall has reached out to some interested people. Waiting to hear back.
- **Fall Technical Tour Thoughts, Ideas and Tentative Plans (Dufford and Others)-** There are still hopes of revisiting the 2018 state tech tour in Bayfield County for our tech tour this fall. Ben will be bringing the idea to his LCC at their next committee meeting to gauge their support at this time. Still, there is a possibility for a tour but too many questions at this point to

set anything. The Tech Committee would also like to get an approval from Matt Krueger and WLWCA to proceed with a tour. Update to follow in June.

- **Adjourn-** Motion to adjourn 1st- Heagle, 2nd-Klose. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.