



## Wisconsin's State Inter-Agency Training Committee

*SITCOM's Mission: To maintain and strengthen a statewide team of well-trained conservation professionals that carry on Wisconsin's rich history of conserving soil and water resources through a coordinated and efficient partnership.*

### Minutes

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 / 8:30-10:30 a.m.

**Present:** Kevin Erb, Coreen Fallat, Karl Gesch, Kelli Neitzel, Mike Stanek, Tony Reali, Dan O'Connell, Josh O'Neil, Jamie Patton, Penny Pohle, Chris Schlutt, Nate Walker, Matt Woodrow, Drew Zelle

**Absent:** Steve Becker, Stacy Dehne (excused), Emily Micolichek (excused), Josh Odekirk (excused)

**Approve July 20 minutes:** No changes; approved.

### Opportunities and/or Challenges

- **Designation and training of CAD specialist/liason for LCD and DATCP** - Matt reported there is now a call chain procedure in place: first reach out to your primary DATCP contact, next contact DATCP engineer Taylor Smagacz in the southwest region with tougher questions, and lastly reach out to Steph Schultz with NRCS.
- **Sharing large files between agencies and WI Land+Water** - Penny and Coreen have been using SharePoint, and it's working. Matt said BOX is blocked for DATCP employees, who can't have unabated access to it, but they can work with IT to use it on a limited basis. OneDrive is used to share files between counties and NRCS. Kevin uses Teams with NRCS; NRCS needs to log out and in to Team. Negative-once you create a file structure, you cannot change it. DNR uses WiBox. OneDrive supported by most state agencies, but there's the challenge of access. Tony uses Dropbox; however, DATCP can't use it. SharePoint may be the best option. Is file sharing possible on new WI Land+Water site?

Action: Penny will ask our WLW website developer. Coreen to keep investigating options.

- **New WI Land+Water website - training calendar, SITCOM webpage** - Regarding the calendar, Penny hopes that users will soon be able to search by topic.

**Old business** - none

**COVID restrictions and impacts on in-person trainings** - Penny shared Extension's policy. NRCS policy is masks indoors, only gather for mission critical trainings, limited travel, no group gatherings. Telework at least through January 3, then a phase-in process. Mandatory vaccinations. Dan reported that in Portage County people can travel and attend meetings/trainings, although restrictions vary by vaccinated and unvaccinated. LCC meetings pose challenges, but they're being held. DNR has no

restrictions for outdoor activities (dependent on vaccination) and wearing a mask indoors. Trainings should be held virtually if possible, or at least provide a virtual option. All trainings require approval. Basics of Ag training may prerecord some of the indoor portion. Penny isn't planning any in-person events and will likely keep some of her trainings virtual from now on that used to be in person.

### **Member Updates**

- **Update on SITCOM training workplan items** - Updates were provided for the workplan's high and medium priorities trainings.

Action: Penny will update the workplan with the information provided.

- **Upcoming trainings including AITCOM trainings** - Drew did a technician tour in August, but those in-person events are over for now.

**Review and update Operational Guidance document** - A few updates were made.

Action: Penny will make the updates and post it on the website.

### **Ad-hoc committee reports**

- AgLearn - webinar on August 31 was beneficial. Mike reported that AgLearn has had a fix: if you weren't a federal employee you couldn't see state-offered trainings, but all federal employees could see them. A partner audience link was created so everyone can now access all national and state trainings when they search.
- Conservation Planner Certification is done for professional improvement for NRCS employees, and the importance is a 9-step planning process. LCD employees do this for professional development, and some have it in their job description.

Action: Penny sending out Holly's information to SITCOM on the Conservation Planner Certification. Need to decide if the information should be shared with LCDs and partner employees.

### **Other business**

Mike said that the field portion for the pasture condition scoresheet is postponed. Kent Dickerson's Cultural Resources part 2 (field portion) is also postponed. SOC is creating a committee to review the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 328 Conservation Crop Rotation for Wisconsin and is seeking participants. Penny forwarded the SOC email to SITCOM members.

Kevin held a soil health training in La Crosse, is starting to look at the February CAFO workshops, and the North American manure expo will be in Wisconsin in 2023. He received funding for table-top karst models that will be available in next few months. They are good to use for demonstrations at county fairs and public health departments.

Matt mentioned that the depth to bedrock standard is out there and is in charge of figuring out training, which would be half in the classroom and half in the field. He's determining if the classroom portion can be done online. He hasn't heard about anyone being interested in becoming certified on this. Let Matt know if you've heard anything.

### **Future plans**

- **Update on SITCOM position** - Penny is working on job description with Matt W., Coreen, and Matt Krueger. Then will submit it to Eric Allness at NRCS. Should know by end of September if position is approved. It's a four-year position, with hiring to occur in 2022.
- **Next meeting** - Wednesday, December 8 / 8:30-10:30 a.m. (2022 workplan)

---

### **SITCOM Members and Representatives**

- AITCOM-#1-Northern/Park Falls - Stacy Dehne
- AITCOM-#2-NW/Altoona - Josh O'Neil
- AITCOM-#3-NE/Appleton - Drew Zelle
- AITCOM-#4-SW/Richland Center - Kelli Neitzel
- AITCOM-#5-SE/Juneau - Josh Odekirk
- Dept. Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection - Matt Woodrow, Coreen Fallat
- Dept. of Natural Resources - Karl Gesch, Nate Walker
- Natural Resources Conservation Service - Steve Becker, Mike Stanek
- Professional Improvement Committee (PIC) - Tony Reali
- Technical Committee (TC) - Dan O'Connell
- UW-Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences - Mimi Broeske and Jamie Patton (comembers)
- UW-Madison Division of Ext. - Kevin Erb, Jenna Mertz
- WI Land+Water - Penny Pohle, Chris Schlutt
- Member at large, professional engineering practitioner - Emily Micolichek