



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Dec 9, 2021	
Start Time: 9:04 A.M.	End Time: 11:38 A.M.
Location:	Zoom Meeting Only
Conference Phone:	If you'd like to attend this meeting, please contact the committee chair or WI Land+Water committee representative (kate@wisconsinlandwater.org) for the link to access the meeting
Conf ID:	Meeting ID: Upon Request Passcode: Upon Request
<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.; Brian Smetana, Walworth Co.</p> <p><u>Non-Voting Advisors:</u> Matthew Woodrow – DATCP, Mike Gilbertson – DNR, Eric Hurley (absent from meeting) - NRCS</p>	<p>In Attendance: Albright, Dufford, Esser, Goepfert, Haase, Hanewall, O'Connell, Heagle, Barone, Smetana, Katie Abbott-Iowa Co., Todd Rietmann-Columbia Co., Sarah Hovis-Iowa Co., Kevin Seng-Dane Co., Mitchell Mccarthy-Sauk Co., Tyler Gruetzmacher-Barron Co., Brian Cunningham-WI DNR, Christina Hesselberg-La Crosse Co., Haillie Passow-Trempealeau Co.</p>
<p>WI Land+Water Staff: Kate Brunner, SOC Coordinator (absent from meeting), Chris Schlutt, Training and Events Manager</p>	<p>Absent Committee Members: Pozorski, Fredrich, Klose</p>
Notes	
<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. 	
Next Meeting Date: 3/25/22	

- **Call to order:**
 - **Roll Call - adopt agenda-** 1st-Heagle, 2nd-Esser. Agenda approved.
 - **Approve previous meeting minutes-** 1st-Heagle, 2nd O'Connell. Previous meeting minutes approved.
- **WI Land + Water News (Schlutt)-** December 16th and 17th is the County Con Meeting. The general theme is demystifying some of the federal funding opportunities for conservation, including the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), and the Build Back Better Act (BBBA).

There is a new NRCS Urban Agriculture Subcommittee, Monte Osterman is the WLW representative.

Conference registration is opening next week! The plan is for in-person at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells March 2nd-4th. A few volunteers are still needed for county presentations during the Tech Roundtable (No streambank/restoration or manure storage/abandonment projects). Looking for 3 unique technical county projects (about a 15-minute presentation per) so it's eligible for a PDH. Preferably, not a project from the Northeast, per Drew.

- **SOC Update (Schlutt)-** Lots of projects are in the works. The first 3 below have input steps now or

coming soon.

- NRCS CPS 380 Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation – team is forming now and deadline to apply is 12/15. Hurley added in his submitted notes that NRCS is looking at Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) to make sure that it is working for Wisconsin in particular, we want to make sure that the standard accounts for the multi-species windbreak innovations in the Central Sands. If you have experience with windbreaks that would help with this review, apply for the committee.

- DNR 1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling - expected to be out for public review soon (January?).

- DNR 1060 Storm Drain Inlet Protection – public Broad Review very soon (late Dec or Jan).

- NRCS Heavy Use Area Protection (CPS 561); Waste Separation (CPS 632) Waste Transfer (CPS 634); Waste Treatment (CPS 629); and Waste Treatment, Milk House (CPS 627) expert review going on now. No team on this one, but Modified Process with 2 levels of external review. The public Broad Review expected early 2022.

- DNR High Performance Dry Storm Water Basins started last month.

- NRCS CPS 328 Conservation Crop Rotation has the first team meeting in December. Hurley added, this committee is reviewing the Conservation Crop Rotation (328) standard and the guidance documents with the goal of encouraging the use of crop rotations which systemically address soil erosion, water quality, soil health, and other resource concerns. There is a lot of crop rotation innovation going on in Wisconsin and we want to make sure that the standard recognizes and promotes the benefits of these rotations.

Please contact Kate with any SOC questions.

- **Stream Restoration Standards Training(s), Design and Review Thoughts (All)**- Previous design focus was using the capacity or velocity method. Shear stress is the new criteria. Noticing that shear stress number have gone up using this. Steve Becker is looking at the second week of February to start a couple of trainings utilizing the shear stress method. 2 trainings are planned now and may need some in field trainings down the road. DATCP is looking putting on more targeted trainings. Reach out to AITCOM or SITCOM reps to voice the need for any more specific trainings on this subject.
- **Manure Storage Ordinance(s) Implementation Questions and Discussion (Goepfert)**- Goepfert emailed the committee a little while back about Animal Waste Ordinances and specifically fees associated with CAFO's. Juneau County has revisited their ordinance (from '97) and found the required no fees for any permits. The question was posed to the committee on how other counties were handling permits and fees. Examples were given not only about CAFO's but any new construction or abandonment of waste storage facilities.

Most counties charge fees for new construction and abandonments regardless on if it's a CAFO or not.

Mitch McCarthy (Sauk Co.) stated they are revisiting their ordinance currently. Their big question is with idle pits, what to do with them, how to verify if they are in good working condition. Will they require a certificate of use? What is the best approach when it comes to idle facilities?

Other counties are having the same issues, but the approaches differ from county to county.

Juneau County stated that if there is no construction plan on file, the waste storage facility cannot be used if it has sat idle for 2 years or more.

LaCrosse County states that structures not in use for 2 years require an inspection to obtain a feed lot/manure storage permit for future usage. It is a challenge for private engineers to inspect and approve a structure meets standards for continued usage.

Some counties have informal mapping of their structures. Walworth County uses Farmland Preservation as their list for structures in the county. Smetana then asked about what to do with idle slurry stores.

Gilbertson brought up the fact that under NR151, specifically NR151.05 talks about the state standard of idle waste storage facilities. Remember, proper abandonment of an in use or idle facility is a performance standard according to the state.

- **Wetland Rapid Functional Value Assessment (WRAM) Update (Esser)**- Wisconsin is partnering with Minnesota and creating 5 different teams within to help find indicators. First meeting was held a couple weeks ago.
- **Direct Runoff from Feedlots Guidance Document Contributor List (Gilbertson)**- The final draft was approved at the last meeting. The contributor list was changed to show the current committee members, DNR, and DATCP that were involved in the large number of final changes. Hanewall asked to keep Bob Micheel (Monroe Co.) and Paul Sebo (Washington Co.) on the list due to their contributions as former Technical Committee members.

The draft is trying to get to public notice where it should be posted next week. The NR151 Rules Email ListServ will be used to announce the review posting. This subject will be a topic at the upcoming conference, presented as a case study type.

- **BMP Nutrient Reduction Modelling Standardization Update (Hanewall)**- The idea is standardization within the modeling programs/reports (MDV, TRM, TMDL, 9 key). Currently figuring out how to quantify results through the models. Sauk County, and others, currently use Snap Plus to standardize nutrient reduction and soil loss models in the county. Some questions that have been posed are, how can we use this data? Is there a simplified way to model credits? How do we quantify the benefits of what we are doing?

Hanewall spoke with Andrew Craig and Matt Claucherty, WI DNR, and they are planning on presenting at the upcoming conference. They are looking at presenting items such as ranges and trends of practices and what predictions show from county to county so far.

- **Floodplain Zoning Permit Exceptions for Conservation Practices (Hanewall, Albright)**- WI Act 118 changed the way WDNR reviewed Chapter 30 permits for NR 116 (Floodplain Management) compliance. Since then, discrepancies pertaining to permitting have been found across some regions. Information can be found within NR116-Hydraulic Analysis. The point is to use guidance and not statutes. A question was posed on if there is some engineering design or checklist that can be used for documentation to obtain a no rise certificate? Also, what do we use for analysis, existing/proposed contours, TR55, EFH2, others? What do zoning departments need to issue permits?

Consistency throughout the state is the goal. H&H studies are required per FEMA when raising or lowering a floodplain. The scope of what is needed may depend on the flood zone. Zone AE areas are more restrictive than Zone A areas. State engineers and FEMA would need to be on board.

Some practices identified that may be impacted are wetland scrapes, 580, 342, 584, open channel, stream crossings, waterways, access roads, and ditch plugs to name a few.

Hanewall will be following up with DATCP & DNR on this topic. A motion was brought to create a sub team for help with this topic. Albright and Smetana agreed to help. Motion for the sub team, 1st-Heagle, 2nd-Smetana. Additional information to be obtained for future discussion.

- **SITCOM (AITCOM) Update (O'Connell)**- The team is currently under the impression that our training needs are being met statewide.

Currently looking into the ability to share large files (Google Docs, Sharepoint, etc.) and what methods to use. DATCP has restrictions on what they can use (no Google Drive, No Dropbox, can

use One Drive). Trying to find one that is most approved by the counties to utilize.

WLW is in the process of hiring a statewide training coordinator. 5 people were interviewed on 12/8 with second interviews possibly soon.

- **LCD(s) Conservation Planner Certification (AgLearn) Status (O'Connell)**- A question was posed to the committee on if anyone has the planner certification or if any counties require it. Most counties are not co-located with NRCS and do not have the AgLearn access. Currently, no counties in the committee require it. Most use job approval or ecological science job approval. A few counties will use it if they also work with CREP.
- **NRCS State Technical Subcommittee Updates (Engineering, Soil Health, Forestry and Wildlife) (Albright, Hurley, Hanewall)**-

Engineering- The Source Water Protection Subcommittee met. They reviewed the current geographic targeting for the EQIP funds designated for source water protection and the data and modeling of the source water problem provided by Kevin Masarik of the UW Source Water Education Program and by Chris Clayton on the DNR Proposed Groundwater Nitrogen Targeted Areas.

The committee chose to retain the current NRCS targeted watersheds and the emphasis on nitrate as the pollutant of interest. Considering the new data, in the future we will look at adding watersheds in Green, Lafayette, and Grant counties. Note, if additional targeted areas are added, other areas will need to be removed from being targeted.

The committee will assess whether the NRCS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is adequately addressing Kewaunee County's source water protection issues. We will evaluate targeting municipality/public wells wellhead protection areas for planning and funding.

The committee will evaluate the effectiveness of the conservation practices which are being funded as to their effectiveness to protect source water. Adding pathogens as a resource concern (source water threat type) in some areas and other source water resource concerns such as sediments, pesticides, etc. that may be impacting source water are being considered.

Soil Health- No report. There is a conference in the works.

Forestry- Haven't heard back prior to this meeting.

Wildlife- No news to report.

- **Technical Committee Officer Term Limits and Renewal Discussion (All)**- Officer confirmations to be reviewed in 2022 after spring elections. Hanewall encouraged new people to step up to take on officer roles. New leadership brings new ideas. A new secretary spot is available. Contact Hanewall for any additional details.
- **2022 Meeting Dates (Hanewall)**- Meeting dates set for next year. They consist of Friday, March 25th, Friday June 3rd, during the week of August 8th-12th (joined with PIC, exact date to be finalized later), Thursday morning, December 15th (during County Con Conference).
- **Adjourn**- Motion to adjourn, 1st-Heagle, 2nd-Smetana. Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.