



## Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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# Technical Committee Meeting Notes

**Date:** December 15, 2023    **Time:** 9:00am-12:00 pm    **Location:** Zoom Only

**PC/Laptop/Tablet/Smart Phone:**

**Meeting** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85726578547?pwd=bXFaR1B5U3RjRWljaWV0OVduOFJBdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 857 2657 8547    **Passcode:** 852428

**Mission:** Lead WI Land+Water technical assistance activities related to the innovation, evaluation and implementation of conservation practices, standards, services, and the associated programs and policies.

### Committee Members

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Hanewall, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shawn Esser, Vice Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tina Barone, Sec. |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ketty Clow           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dufford             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Fredrich     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Goepfert  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Heagle          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Klose              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zach Mohr         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathon Lisowe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan O'Connell                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Pozorski                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Smetana     | <input type="checkbox"/> Chad Trudell               |

### Non-Voting Advisors

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew Woodrow – DATCP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Usborne – DNR | <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Hurley - NRCS |
|--|---|---|

### WI Land+Water Staff Liaison (non-voting)

- Kate Brunner (Michael Hook attended as WI Land+Water representative)

### Invited Guests

Tracy Arnold

*WI Land+Water meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person, via conference phone, or via web conference if desired. Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair. Please inform your chair if you cannot attend.*

## ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE

- I. Call to order: 9:05 am

- a. Roll Call - adopt agenda. Motion to adopt agenda made by Esser 2<sup>nd</sup> Smetana. Motion passed.
  - b. Approve previous meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes by Heagle 2<sup>nd</sup> Esser. Motion passed.
- II. WI Land and Water News (Hook for Brunner)
- a. The 2024 conference agenda is complete and registration will open early next week. Tech Committee again has provided great support in developing conference sessions. There was info in our newsletter ([https://issuu.com/wilandwater/docs/newsletter\\_w23?fr=sZmM1ZDY2OTM5OTg](https://issuu.com/wilandwater/docs/newsletter_w23?fr=sZmM1ZDY2OTM5OTg)) and also look for the registration email from Chris Schlutt next week. Details will be posted on our website: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/conservation/annual-conference>
  - b. Nominations for the conservation awards are due Dec. 31. Chris emailed the LCD list last week with details. Nomination materials and instructions can be found on our website: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/conservation/awards>
  - c. Esser working on Wastewater Session. Looking for an Agronomist who works with Biosolids to help present. If you know of someone send them to Esser for more information about session. Goepfert suggested Dick Wickowski.
- III. SOC Update (Hook for Brunner)
- a. Many standards right now. Teams are working on updates to 590 Nutrient Management and 635 VTA, plus 4 new DNR standards. DNR has two related to dry ponds (one basic dry basin and one more as a treatment system with enhanced media (iron filings) and two related to P removal in wet ponds (one is continuous dosing and one episodic dosing).
  - b. VTA and all 4 DNR standards are all expected to be out for public review next spring.
  - c. If there's more interest in any of these, we could plan for guests at the next Tech Committee meeting to review details:
    - i. Steve Becker could be a guest to review planned updates to the VTA standard.
    - ii. Brunner can work out a speaker, if interest in the DNR standards, depending on which ones and who is available. Could be Amy Minser or Eric Rortvedt or Dan Bekta.
  - d. Osborne doesn't have any formal update on DNR or VTA standard.
  - e. Heagle asked with change to VTA standard if CAFOs still can't use VTAs? Osborne said DNR will not allow VTAs to be used by CAFOs. Hanewall asked for clarification if first flush can be collected and then use VTA. Osborne said CAFOs require 100% collection so VTAs cannot be used.
- IV. Technical Tour Review and Discussion – Thank You Kewaunee County! (All)
- a. Thank you to Fredrich and the rest of Kewaunee County
  - b. Esser wasn't able to attend but got information on compost facilities.

- i. Esser suggested that as a Committee we may want to pursue composting as a group.
- ii. Kewaunee County has a document but not sure how they are using it.  
[https://www.kewauneeeco.org/i/f/files/Land%20%26%20Water%20Conservation/KEW%20CO%20COMPOSTING%20Guide%202018\(1\).pdf](https://www.kewauneeeco.org/i/f/files/Land%20%26%20Water%20Conservation/KEW%20CO%20COMPOSTING%20Guide%202018(1).pdf)
- iii. Those who attended said it was a good day.
- c. Chippewa County has volunteered for 2024. They have a CAFO facility with a 3 liner storage they would like to include in the tour who's hesitant to be included in the tour so looking for any tips. Stormwater Management doing site inspections with ArcPro.

V. Summary & Recommendations of the Great Lakes Area Tiling Concerns (Klose/Hanewall)

- a. Referring to Tiling Concerns Summary document.
- b. Need to make sure differentiating between agricultural crop field tiles vs around waste storage structures, springs, etc.
- c. Looking at solutions –
  - i. Number 11 not realistic.
  - ii. Certain area of tile outlet must be contained on property unless impacted downstream landowners sign off on it.
  - iii. Collect tile discharge for irrigation in an irrigation pond.
  - iv. Tiling in other land uses too. Clow seeing in at industrial sand mines. After reclamation not maintained and downstream landowners concern
  - v. Physical damage and loss from downstream landowners
  - vi. Bigger picture, water high in nutrients coming down Mississippi River or into Great Lakes.
  - vii. Nutrient Management – is very important but will still probably have some loss out of tiles
  - viii. Concerns with the impacts of this document to Drainage Districts. Suggest sending this to Bart Chapman for review.
  - ix. UW Extension had document for guidance but recommends a lot of sampling which is hard to do
  - x. Using CREP, WRP, & CRP to address wet areas instead of tiling. Should we look at additional programs (use value assessment like hydrologic restoration) areas high in nitrate or phosphorus.
  - xi. Negative impacts to downstream landowners can be taken into consideration
  - xii. Tiles in floodplain areas
  - xiii. Tax credits. Not being taxed on recreational use.
  - xiv. To build information to push toward new landuse instead of tiling would require a State, of Federal effort.
  - xv. Development in the future. Walworth County requires tile maps when new development goes in.

- xvi. Barone made motion to create a mixed WI Land+Water subcommittee on tiling. Heagle 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Passed. Hanewall will discuss with Krueger how to handle

- VI. Significant Discharge Training Recap (All)
  - a. Companion Doc rollout
  - b. Webinar and Regional field training in SW by DATCP
  - c. Clow said field day could have focused more on is there are resource concern and should we cost share on it rather than just solutions
  - d. Training difficulties -Hard to find a site to visit for a Significant Discharge
  - e. Questionable sites to look at is the ones that need to be looked at
  - f. Support more regional trainings
  - g. Include more sites for determining compliance
- VII. Conservation Mentorship Program (Hanewall/Hook)
  - a. Across all partners there was 40% interest rate for this program
  - b. Approval from all the partners (County, UW, NRCS)
  - c. Opened pilot in mid-November
  - d. Developing Matches
  - e. 32+ people applied in some capacity
  - f. Designed program to connect with what people want
  - g. Most are looking for a peer network
  - h. Will put all information together and send out in a newsletter
- VIII. Landowner “Mentorship” Program (Hanewall/Hook)
  - a. Could we build off the Producer-led Program?
  - b. Recommend promoting the DATCP Conservation Farmer Mentor Service
  - c. Try to promote through our existing Producer-led groups
  - d. More barriers than just connecting people
  - e. Producer’s don’t have time, hard to get a commitment
  - f. DATCP Farm Center has different programs. Maybe there is some type of link that can be made to get the correct people in touch with each other. Usborne provided contact through chat.  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/WisconsinFarmCenterContactInformation.aspx>
  - g. Sauk County Pasture Walk community is a good model
- IX. Wetland Rapid Functional Value Assessment (WRAM) Update (Esser)
  - a. Haven’t met for a while
  - b. Anthropogenic team Esser sat on has been done for over a year
  - c. Still with StanTec to pull everything together as far as the model
  - d. Thomas Pearce offered to do session at conference if there is interest. 2024 or 2025 conference.
- X. NRCS State Technical Subcommittee Updates (Engineering, Soil Health, Forestry, Wildlife, Urban Agriculture) (Esser, Petersen, Micheel, Schlupp and Osterman)

- a. State Technical Advisory Committee
  - i. started years ago on engineering topics but has morphed into something much bigger
  - ii. Group we submitted our list of priority practices to
  - iii. Funding for programs throughout the state
- b. 5 Subcommittees
  - i. Wildlife (Schlupp)
    - a. Tour was cancelled this year
    - b. Usually focus on WRP, CRP
    - c. Discussed updates to 397 job sheet for CRP
    - d. Pheasant and Quail suitability index
    - e. Wisconsin Wetland Restoration criteria and guidelines document
    - f. Reviewed CRP priority areas in state
  - ii. Forestry (Micheel) – didn't meet
  - iii. (Peterson)-no update
  - iv. Urban and Community Agriculture Subcommittee (Osterman)
    - a. 2023 grant awards of \$600,000
    - b. 6 recipients-
      - a. several tribes were recipients
      - b. urban gardens and food diversification systems
    - c. New standards for tunnel
    - d. Updating and expanding urban fringe practices, maps
  - v. Source Water Protection (Anderson)
    - a. Primary role is to approve specific practices in priority areas
    - b. Increased cost share to 90% in these areas
- XI. Nonmetallic Mining Advisory Committee Update (Arnold)
  - a. Ideas for breakout sessions about regulatory topics
  - b. Success stories of successfully reclaimed mines
- XII. SITCOM (AITCOM) Update (Hook)
  - a. State Interagency Training Committee
  - b. 21 members
  - c. Difficult to take action because group is too big
  - d. Adopted task force approach-Half of team SITCOM and half people who work with topic (separate from AITCOM)
  - e. Conservation Training Standards, Instructor Support, and Bootcamp Training
  - f. AITCOM Support and Operational Guidance
- XIII. 2024 Annual Conference 50/50 Raffle (Hanewall)
  - a. At Conference Tech Committee has done in past
  - b. We would love help from any Committee Members
  - c. Clarify where the funds go with O'Connell at next meeting
- XIV. 2024 Technical Committee Meeting Dates (Hanewall)
  - a. Thursday March 21, 2024 (virtual)

- b. Thursday July 11, 2024 (in-person but try to have virtual option also)
- c. Thursday August 8, 2024 Conference Planning Meeting (in-person)
- d. Thursday December 12, 2024 (virtual)

Smetana made motion to adopt these dates, Clow 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

XV. Motion to Adjourn

- a. Motion by Barone
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Smetana
- c. Motion Passed Adjourned 11:42 am

Next Meeting March 21, 2024, virtual