



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

121 S. Pinckney Street, Suite 420 • Madison, WI 53703
(608) 441-2677 • wisconsinlandwater.org

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Minutes

Date: July 18, 2024 **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

HYBRID MEETING

In-person: Waupaca County Building, 811 Harding St., Waupaca, WI 54981; Lower Level (LL) 42

Virtual: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83236130025?pwd=TVVCdW1TWkljaTBHYORISDUrNIZIUT09>

Call-in: 1-312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 832 3613 0025; Passcode: 786917

Board Members			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monte Osterman (Chair), Racine Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Micheel (Vice-Chair), Monroe Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Piaget (Treasurer), Dane Co. LWRD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Boisvert, Lincoln Co. LSD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Gerhardt, Clark Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Turville-Heitz, Jefferson Co. LWCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Frank, Shawano Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Mandli, Marinette Co. LCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Reali, Calumet Co. LWCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Hofberger, Calumet Co. LWCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marissa Castello, Waukesha Co. LRD	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Henry, Vernon Co. LCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chase Cummings, Dunn Co. LWCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Wojchik, Polk Co. LWRD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ortman, Ashland Co. LCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Ritter, Marathon Co. ERC
Advisors (Non-Voting)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Anderson, DATCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Shannon Haydin, DNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Clayton, DNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathan Fikkert, NRCS
<input type="checkbox"/> Beth Mason, NACD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Zerr, UW-Madison Division of Extension		
WI Land+Water Staff (Non-Voting)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Krueger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christina Anderson	Jenny Pethan	

Other attendees: Dan Grady, Dave Wetenkamp, Joe Mumm, Linnaea Newman, MaryJo Gingras

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

- 1) Call to order – Chair Monte Osterman 9:02 am

- a. Roll call – adopt agenda
 - Requested action: vote to approve: **Motion Gerhardt / Hofberger. All Ayes.**

- b. Approve previous meeting minutes – March 6, 2024
 - Requested action: vote to approve: **Motion Gerhardt / Micheel. All Ayes.**

- 2) Introductions of Board Members, Advisors, and WI Land+Water Staff – Osterman
 - a. NEW BOD members: please take two minutes at most to answer the following questions
 - i. What is your name, county, position/title, and tenure in that role?
 - ii. Do you have any relevant skills/interests as it relates to serving on the BOD, or conservation in general?
 - b. RETURNING BOD members: please take two minutes at most to answer the following questions
 - i. What is your name, county, position/title, and tenure in that role?
 - ii. Based on your time on the Board of Directors, what advice or observations about being a BOD member can you offer to incoming BOD members to help with their orientation?
 - c. BOD advisors:
 - i. What is your name and your affiliation? How do you work with county conservation departments and committees?
 - d. Staff
 - i. What is your title and tenure, and how do you interact with BOD members?

- 3) Board Packet Review and Discussion – Exec. Director Matt Krueger
 - a. Mission & vision
 - b. Board logistics
 - c. Duties and responsibilities of BOD Members
 - d. Committees

BOD meeting schedule: March, Annual Conference, Green Bay; July, TBD (centrally located); October, Stevens Point; December, TBD (centrally located).

BOD members expecting to be absent from a meeting need to ask their alternate to attend in their place. Reminder that BOD members are asked to represent a statewide perspective and not just the County they serve. There are more than 50 external committees that WI L+W has representation on. There is a link in the BOD packet (WI L+W website) for this list. Review of the Strategic Plan, feedback from Ortman suggesting a section within the plan to identify conservation needs of the state to know what we are working toward. Discussion on the necessity of guiding principles for each standing committee.

- 4) Executive Committee Report – President Bob Micheel

Reviewed logistics of committee and the latest (June) meeting. Reviewed some of the feedback received regarding the last annual conference. 93% of respondents indicated this was the “best conference”. In 2025 Wisconsin will be hosting the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Conference. WI L+W will be heavily involved. Future discussion by Exec. Committee will be related to adjustments to the membership dues formula. Potential changes effective in 2026. Reviewed take aways from past BOD (exit interviews).

- 5) Conflict of Interest Forms – Osterman

– Requested action: all BOD/alternates sign and submit forms
 Members present turned in forms. Others (online) will send to Krueger.

6) Election of Officers/Executive Committee – Osterman, Krueger

Article IV, Section 3: "...The Executive Committee shall be made up of equal numbers of LCC and conservation staff Members at all times, other than during periods of temporary vacancy. The BOD Chair shall serve as the Vice-President of the Executive Committee and the BOD Vice-Chair shall serve as the President of the Executive Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer positions shall be occupied by the same individuals on the Executive Committee as the BOD. The primary purposes of the Executive Committee are to fulfill the obligations and conduct the business of the Board between BOD meetings, and to minimize the need to spend full BOD meeting time on routine matters the Board has authorized the Executive Committee to manage. The Executive Committee shall also oversee the Association's finances and its Executive Director, and report about its activities at each BOD meeting."

- a. Voting logistics
- b. Nominations and voting for:
 - i. Chair (Vice-President): facilitated by Krueger. **Gerhardt / Hofberger nominate Osterman.** Three calls for other nominations. **Ortman / Gerhardt to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. All Ayes. Osterman elected.** Vice-Chair (President): remainder of voting and meeting facilitated by Osterman. **Gerhardt / Hofberger nominate Micheel.** Three calls for other nominations. **Frank / Wojchik to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. All Ayes. Micheel elected.** Treasurer: **Micheel/ Gerhardt nominate Piaget.** Three calls for nominations. **Gerhardt / Micheel to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. All Ayes. Piaget elected.** Secretary: **Hofberger / Wojchik nominate Cummings.** Three calls for other nominations. **Gerhardt / Reali to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. All Ayes. Cummings elected.** and two "at-large" members. **Frank / Hofberger nominate Gerhardt.** Three calls for other nominations. **Frank / Micheel to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. All Ayes. Gerhardt elected.** **Frank / Gerhardt nominate Hofberger.** Three calls for other nominations. **Wojchik / Micheel to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. All Ayes. Hofberger elected.**
 - ii. Elected Executive Committee: Micheel, Piaget, Cummings, Gerhardt, Hofberger, Osterman.

7) Review Financials: 2024 Q1 Balance Sheet – Treasurer, Exec. Director Matt Krueger
– Requested action: review Piaget, Krueger, Osterman.

8) Break 11:07 – 11:20am.

9) WI Land+Water Staff Appearances – Jenny Pethan, Climate Specialist; Christina Anderson, Assoc. Director. Introductions of Pethan and Anderson. Explanation of positions within organization, Discussion of roles and programs.

10) Board Involvement in Implementing Strategic Plan – President, Krueger
– Requested action: discuss, identify areas where BOD members can contribute

11) Revisions to Land and Water Conservation Board Elections – Osterman, Krueger

- Requested action: vote to approve draft policy in packet

Discussion. Changes to item #2 to read: “In June of even numbered years, ...” **Piaget / Frank to approve with changes. All Ayes.**

12) 2024 Land Conservation Committee Training/Orientation – Krueger

- Requested action: discuss Discussion and feedback regarding most recent five training/orientation events.

13) Executive Director’s Report – Krueger

- a. Organizational snapshot: Discussion including State Inter-Agency Training Committee (SITCOM); Field Note publications; college recruitment roles; climate resiliency; tiling subcommittee; changes to Conservation Observance Day from in person event to a video highlighting the Conservation Farmer of the Year award recipient.
- b. Policy priorities: Discussion including next state budget cycle and a \$20.2 million staffing grant request; increase Ag Enterprise Area (AEA) acreage cap to 3 million acres; wake boat policies; well compensation program.
- c. Hiring update: Will be hiring a 0.5 FTE office manager position. Onboarding very soon.

14) Advisor Reports: Report from Dan Zerr (UW Extension) only one able to stay for entire meeting. Discussion about moving future Advisor reports to earlier on the agenda.

15) Review/Set Remaining 2024 Meeting Dates – Krueger

- a. Oct 17 (at County Conservation Mtg in Stevens Point); Dec – TBD

Discussion regarding conflict with the NRCS State Technical Committee meeting time. Will communicate with NRCS about a resolution in order to facilitate more interaction with NRCS as WI L+W BOD meetings.

16) Adjourn to lunch 12:47.