



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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

Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes

Date: March 6, 2024 **Time:** 8:30 am – 11:00 am

HYBRID MEETING

In-person: KI Convention Center, 333 Main St., Green Bay, WI 54301; Riverview 2

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83236130025?pwd=TVVCdW1TWkljaTBHY0RISDUrNIZIUT09>

Zoom 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. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Scholl (Secretary), Vilas Co. LCD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Gerhardt, Clark Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Luck, Richland Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Frank, Shawano Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Mandli, Marinette Co. LCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Haase, Waupaca Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Hofberger, Calumet Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marissa Castello, Waukesha Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Henry, Vernon Co. LCC (Late Arrival)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chase Cummings, Dunn Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dufford, Bayfield Co. LCD	<input type="checkbox"/> Craig Conroy, Burnett Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Ritter, Marathon Co. LCC
Advisors (Non-Voting)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Anderson, DATCP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shannon Haydin, DNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Clayton, DNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh Odekirk, NRCS
<input type="checkbox"/> Beth Mason, NACD	<input type="checkbox"/> Coreen Fallat, DATCP	<input 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"/> Kelli Myers		

Others Present: Toni Real; Lisa Trumble; Dave Ferris

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 called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.
 - a. Roll call – Secretary Carolyn Scholl completed roll call for in-person participants and those people participating by phone.

- b. Adopt agenda – **Motion Frank / Gerhardt** to adopt agenda. All Ayes.
 - c. Approve previous meeting minutes – **Motion Hofberger / Cummings** to approve minutes from Dec 14, 2023. All Ayes.
- 2) Review Financial Report: 2023 Budget Performance Summary – Treasurer Amy Piaget, Exec. Director Matt Krueger
- a. P & L Expenses: 43000 Youth camp registration down. 60000 frequent audit reviews are required now that the organization budget has exceeded \$1 million. Full Audit is required every 3 years. CPA helps with the books. Higher priced audits are a cost of growth. 66000 payroll decrease from expected. Staff person has not been hired yet. Isabelle’s position was unfilled for a few months, now filled by Kelli Myers. Meeting expenses shown are virtual so expenses are down. 86000 NRCS and DATCP expenses are folded in here. 91000 staff and board to attend NRCS national events. 96000 Reserve fund have not been created yet. 52400 Dues bill additional voluntary county support funds.
 - b. Balance Sheet – no questions.
 - c. **Motion Mandli / Castello** to approve the budget summaries.
- 3) Board Involvement in Implementing Strategic Plan – Pres. Bob Micheel, Krueger
- a. Thanks to committee who worked on strategic plan. Working to develop an annual tracking template that reflects the strategic plan progress. Strategic plan hard copies distributed. Also available on the website. Will email the entire membership. Graphic designer was hired to help develop hard copy.
- 4) Approval of Representatives to External Committees – Krueger
- Amy Piaget – Nutrient Reduction Strategy Steering Committee – brief report - WI has a strategy and Joe Bonnell was hired to revisit the strategy and update it. Will input be asked for? Yes, there will be plenty of stakeholder opportunities for input. How will DNR use this? Goal will be to get the plan more cohesive with agencies – including the DNR. **Motion Frank / Micheel** to approve report. All Ayes.
 - Melissa Schlupp – Farm Sustainability Rewards Program Advisory Team – Incentivize participation in conservation practices. Greenfire – Jim Vandenbrook is heading a Pay for Performance platform, is being developed now. **Motion Cummings / Piaget** to approve representative appointments. All Ayes.
- 5) Land and Water Conservation Board Elections (2 yr terms)
- a. Timing of county board elections and Land and Water Conservation Board reps are misaligned. WI Land + Water elects’ members in March, they don’t begin their BOD role until January the following year. Hard if they do not continue on their county boards (for various reasons). Katy at DATCP has been helping us fix this issue. Members are appointed by the Governor, except for 3 the Land + Water members. Election timing needs adjusting. Move election to our fall BOD meeting? This would reduce the time between election and actual start date. Gives summertime to solicit candidates. Speeches could be done on video. Co Con meeting could be used for additional nominees as needed. Commitment and dates of meetings, etc need to be completely understood by candidates. Will need to change our by-laws after new system is created.

Should we try to elect alternates to LWCB at the same time as regular elected? We would need to figure out how to administer.

Motion Gerhardt / Micheel to move 2024 LWCB election process to Fall of the year. All Ayes.

- b. UW Research committee also needs a bylaw change: propose that 1 of the sitting members need to be from WI Land+Water. LCC or LCD could participate. Will be working on this coming up...
 - c. **Motion Castello / Gerhardt** to create a process (beyond 2024) to permanently change the Land and Water Conservation Board elections to even numbered years in the Fall of the year. All Ayes.
- 6) 2024-26 Board of Directors Intentions, Recruitment – Micheel, Osterman
Discussed BOD members' interest in continuing on the BOD.
- 7) 2024 NACD Annual Meeting Update – Osterman, Micheel
Attended meeting in San Diego Bob, Amy, Matt, Monte. 30 resolutions – many were Forestry related, Natural asset companies purchase rights on natural public lands on stock exchange. Bob – FSA “lack of” communication, dropped contracts - needs to be corrected. Farm bill was discussed. Networked with other states, staff and elected. WI is in really good shape! Amy – first time attended. Breakout sessions, networked with states. Gives you a different perspective. Matt – newly formed org of executive directors. Valuable!
- 8) 2024 Land Conservation Committee Training/Orientation – Krueger
Approaching LCC training differently. Want to do it better. Engage LCC members. How could we get increased LCC participation? Hold training regionally. Offer food. Present value as to why LCC members should attend. So far, dates planned are May 10?, June 14. In person with online resources available. Consider April election as new LCC members are getting adjusted in their county board role.
- 9) Executive Director's Report – Krueger
Conference preview – excited. 500 attendees! 31 (9 new ones) sponsors. Sponsorship generated \$18,000. LCC meet and greet - no formal agenda to develop relationships. Presenters: NRCS rep, Dan Egan, Gov. Tony Evers
Hiring Updates – Climate Resilience staff, Financial Administrator by May 1.
- 10) Advisor Reports – Tim Anderson DATCP – Dani Heisler hired, Conservation Agronomist offer is out, Environmental Tech (for North Central region), Engineer position open
Crop insurance rebates – over 160,000 acres. Dan Zerr – groundwater educator hired, money secured for natural resource educators.

Next BOD meeting date: Stevens Point? 3 hours, July 18, Oct 17, Dec TBD