



**Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association**

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

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Approved**

**Date:** Oct 17, 2024    **Time:** 8:30 am – 11:45 am

**HYBRID MEETING**

**In-person:** Holiday Inn Convention Center – Stevens Point, 1001 Amber Ave, Stevens Point, WI 54482, Spruce/Sands Room

**Virtual:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83236130025?pwd=TVVCdW1TWkljaTBHY0RISDUrNIZIUT09>

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

| Board Members   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monte Osterman<br>(Chair), Racine Co. LCC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Micheel (Vice-Chair), Monroe Co. LCD   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Piaget (Treas.), Dane Co. LWRD | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chase Cummings, Dunn Co. LWCD (Sec.) |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Henry, Vernon Co. LCC           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Boisvert, Lincoln Co. LSD             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Wojchik, Polk Co. LWRD                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ortman, Ashland Co. LCC    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Ritter, Marathon Co. ERC        |
| Advisors (Non-Voting)   |  |  |  |
| <input 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                         |  |  |

*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 **8:30 am.**

- Roll call – adopt agenda
    - i. Roll call: all members present in person or online/virtual. Others present not listed above: Stacey Klein – Trempealeau Co.; Joanna Griffin – DNR; Ryan Gerlich – NRCS; Brian Haase – Waupaca Co.; Greg Banek – Outagamie Co.
      - **Requested action: vote to approve Motion Frank/ Gerhardt. All Ayes.**
  - Approve previous meeting minutes – July 18, 2024
    - **Requested action: vote to approve Motion Gerhardt/ Henry. All Ayes.**
- 2) Discussion of 2023 Audit Review – Lisa Lang, Wegner CPAs
- We are in good shape as an organization
  - Liquidity ratio of 1 or greater is good. Less than 1 is concerning. 1 is the minimum, there is no maximum. Our current ratio (2023) 7.65.
  - Future consideration for what our acceptable ration should be and discuss a policy to reflect that.
- 3) Advisor Reports
- DNR, Joanna Griffin: new Watershed Management Program Bureau Director name? Joint Allocation Plan signed.
  - NRCS, Nathan Fikkert: almost \$93M EQIP & CSP for FY24. Additional IRA funds coming in FY25. Reviewing org chart, approximately 330 employees in WI. Reviewing SOC and timing of new conservation practice standard release, to ensure the timing is appropriate for planning and obligation phases of the year. Review training opportunities and plans for new and continuing staff. Discussion around NRCS cost-share rates and potential limitations. Reviewed representation of NRCS at LCC meetings; an ongoing discussion around consistency among area associations. Discussion around Memorandum of Agreements being delayed by National Headquarters, looking to move this along to ensure Memorandum of Agreements between local NRCS Field Offices and County Conservation Departments are completed. These are 5 year agreements from signature dates.
  - NRCS, Ryan Gerlich: if there are discussions about missed funding opportunities, relay those messages to NRCS
  - UW-Extension, Dan Zerr: new water supervisor Meg Damrow, for Natural Resource Educators. Ducks Unlimited has hired Shawn O’Connell as Grazing Specialist for the NW part of state. Discussion around taking advantage of these partnerships. Reviewed 9KE watershed plans for the Red Cedar and Eau Claire River watersheds. Part of these planning efforts/updates will include lobbying efforts to support local county conservation staff funding and producer led watershed grants. These resources will help with the implementation of the 9KE watershed plans.
- 4) Review of 2024 Q2 Profit & Loss Budget Performance Summary – Treasurer Amy Piaget, Exec. Director Matt Krueger
- **Requested action: review, vote to approve: Motion Gerhardt / Micheel. All Ayes.**
- 5) Committee Guiding Principles Review (Health & Conservation, Legislative-Administrative, Professional Improvement, Technical, Youth Education)
- Overview by Krueger. Suggestion for standardizing the Guiding Principle format. Discussion around the wording of a “diverse committee representation, but not required”, for committee guiding principles. Develop a sub-group of Board members (Hofberger, Boisvert, Ritter) to discuss the consistency topic further.

- **Requested action: review, vote to approve: Motion Frank, with note that one item may change based on BOD Policy and Procedures / Piaget. All Ayes.**
- 6) Executive Committee Report – President Bob Micheel
- BOD Policy and Procedures Updates
    - i. Discussion about needs for policy and procedure updates and the accessibility of these documents to the membership.
  - **Motion Boisvert, to ask WI L+W Staff review, revise, combine existing and any additional Policy and Procedures and make recommendations to BOD / Turville-Heitz. All Ayes.**
- 7) Break 10:18 – 10:31
- 8) Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Representative – Micheel
- **Requested action: approve representative: Motion Piaget / Gerhardt. All Ayes.**
    - i. Discussion on 2025 Inductees: Dave Carlson; Robert Freckman; J. Baird Callicott.
    - ii. Comments on the passing of Dan O’Connell. Information about the renaming of the conference raffle program to the “Dan O’Connell Raffle and Scholarship Program”.
- 9) WI Land+Water Staff Appearances – Kristin Teston
- Presentation on communications and outreach efforts for the organization.
- 10) Board Involvement in Implementing Strategic Plan – Micheel, Krueger
- Requested action: discuss: Discussed ways that BOD members can engage in the implementation of the Strategic Plan pillars and strategies.
- 11) NACD Summer Meeting 2025 – Osterman, Krueger
- Requested action: discuss: Discussed tentative schedule of events July 23-29, 2025 in Milwaukee. We have the opportunity to showcase what Wisconsin is all about. Opportunity to incorporate WI L+W BOD meeting as a part of the schedule of events in Milwaukee.
- 12) Land and Water Conservation Board Election Updates – Krueger
- Requested action: discuss: Review of representation on LWCB and the new election process. Currently midway through a fall election process. Each County will get a unique electronic ballot. County staff will need to facilitate with their LCC to circulate this information and establish a vote through a process best suited for each county. A County must complete voting by November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 13) Executive Director’s Report – Krueger
- Biennial Budget Priorities: Discussed base funding concerns and our \$20.2 million ask to support county staff funding; Farmland Preservation tax credits, AEA acreage caps; advocate for changes to Well Compensation Program; advocating on wake boat policies.
  - Conference updates:
    - i. Wisconsin Counties Association Meeting: Krueger attended meeting and presented on value of county land and water conservation departments.

- ii. Association of Conservation Executive Directors Conference: Krueger attended, reviewed topics at the conference.
- New Office Manager – Lou Warpinski
- County Conservation Meeting Preview: 80 people registered. New format and structure of the meeting. More small group discussions and relationship building.
- UniverCity Alliance: Krueger reviewed the program and WI L+W's participation in the program. Our ask for the program - "what is the value of locally led conservation programming?"

14) Next Meeting Date – Dec. 19, 2024, UW-Stevens Point Schmeeckle Reserve, 9:30 am

15) Adjourn – 11:45am