



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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

Board of Directors Meeting (Hybrid Mtg) Minutes – Approved

Date: December 18, 2025 **Time:** 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

In person: Portage County Annex Building, Conference Room # 1 & 2
1462 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54482

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 (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 -Alternate Stacey Klein Trempealeau Co.
<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"/> Jason Knutson, DNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shannon Haydin, DNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Clayton, DATCP	<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	Kristin Testin	

WI Land+Water meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person, via phone, or online 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. BOD members who cannot attend should ask their alternate to do so, and inform the chair.

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE

- 1) Call to Order – Chair Monte Osterman 9:31 a.m.
 - Roll call – adopt agenda
 - **Requested action: vote to approve. Motion Gerhardt / Frank. Motion passed without negative vote.**

- Others present: Claire Morkin Door Co. LCC; David Wetenkamp, Manitowoc Co. LCD.
 - Approve previous meeting minutes – Oct 15, 2025
 - **Requested action: vote to approve. Motion Hofberger / Wojchik. Motion passed without negative vote.**
- 2) Advisor Reports – NRCS, DATCP, DNR, Extension, NACD
- No action requested
 - Extension (Zerr): updates on staffing changes. Todd Prill new water quality educator.
 - DNR (Haydin): Joe Baeten now Ag Runoff Section Manager. Other updates to staffing changes. Acknowledged the Rob-n-Cin Dairy contested case petition.
 - DATCP (Clayton written report read by Krueger): review of Cover Crop Rebate program and reminder for Producer Led Watershed Grant deadlines.
 - NACD (Osterman reported): reminder of deadlines for annual convention.
 - NRCS (Fikkert): review of catch up needed following the end of the Federal Government shutdown; January 15 all programs sign up deadline; new regenerative ag program roll out.
- 3) Review of 2024 Organizational Audit – Treasurer Amy Piaget, all
- Mike Hablewitz, Wegner CPAs (partner), invited participant
 - **Requested action: discuss and file. Motion Gerhardt / Turville-Heitz. Motion passed without negative vote.**
 - Independent Auditor’s Report opinion states that the financial position of the organization, as of year-end 2024, is in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- 4) Executive Committee Report – President Bob Micheel
- No action requested
 - Review of Executive Director performance review; health insurance costs; financial reserve account policy development; long term funding strategy for conservation; association dues structure; officer roles and expectations document in development.
- 5) 2026 WI Land+Water Operating Budget – Piaget, Exec. Director Matt Krueger
- **Requested action: vote to approve. Motion Boisvert / Ritter. Motion passed without negative vote.**
 - Review of 2026 WI Land+Water Draft Budget Highlights, included in meeting packet.

Break 11:45 am – 12:05 pm

- 6) WI Land+Water Staff Report – Kristin Teston, Communications Director
- No action requested
 - Review of activities this past year and what to look forward to in the coming year.
- 7) Nestle-Purina Partnership – Krueger
- No action requested
 - Proposal submitted to Nestle regarding the deliverables for the \$500,000. Hold funds to 2026 for implementation. Plan to convene county stakeholders to determine the

framework for the program. Further discussions with Nestle regarding program development and expected deliverables, as well as opportunities for continued collaboration or partnership on other programs.

8) Executive Director's Report – Krueger

- Staff accountant position – Johnathan Taylor
- WI Land+Water Annual Conference update
 - i. Registration is open, get registered.
 - ii. Keynote speakers: Serge Koenig; Doug Duren
 - iii. Sponsorships are needed. Board members assist in connecting sponsorship recruitment. Matt will send out past sponsorship list to help with recruitment.
 - iv. LCC Coffee and Conversation spot.
 - v. Conservation Trivia instead of movie.

9) Federal Conservation Updates – Osterman, Micheel

- No action requested
- Update from NACD including, Waters of the United States (WOTUS) changes; future partnerships with NACD, USFW, etc.

10) Board Member Updates – all

- Ritter: seeking input on renewable energy demand and impacts to land use. Lots of information on WI L+W website.
- Frank: Shawano County starting private well sampling program with Public Health Department; conservation field day grant from Green Bay Packer Foundation; now a local Farm Bureau Board member.

11) Next Meeting Date – March 4, 2026, WI Land+Water Annual Conference

- Future meetings: Krueger will send out future meeting date options for 2026.

12) Adjourn – 1:45 p.m.