Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association
121 S. Pinckney Street, Suite 420 • Madison, WI 53703
(608) 441-2677 • wisconsinlandwater.org

Board of Directors Approved Meeting Minutes (Hybrid Mtg)

Date: July 27, 2025 **Time**: 3:00 – 5:00 pm (begins after NACD board meeting)
In person: Pfister Hotel, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI, 53202
Grand Ballroom West/Center (7th Floor)
Virtual: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83236130025?pwd=TVVCdW1TWkljaTBHY0RlSDUrNlZlUT09
Call-in: 1-312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 832 3613 0025; Passcode: 786917

Board Members			
☒ Monte Osterman (Chair), Racine Co. LCC	X Bob Micheel (Vice-Chair), Monroe Co. LCD	☒ Amy Piaget (Treas.), Dane Co. LWRD	☒ Chase Cummings, Dunn Co. LWCD (Sec.)
☒ Ken Gerhardt, Clark Co. LCC	☒ Meg Turville-Heitz, Jefferson Co. LWCC	☒ Scott Frank, Shawano Co. LCD	☒ Tom Mandli, Marinette Co. LCC (online); Claire Morkin, Door Co. LCC Alternate (in person)
☒ Tony Reali, Calumet Co. LWCD	☒ Mike Hofberger, Calumet Co. LWCC	☐ Marissa Castello, Waukesha Co. LRD	☒ Mary Henry, Vernon Co. LCC
☒ Tom Boisvert, Lincoln Co. LSD	☒ Mary Jo Gingras (Alternate). LWRD	☒ Charlie Ortman, Ashland Co. LCC	☒ Mike Ritter, Marathon Co. ERC (online)
Advisors (Non-Voting)			
☒ Jason Knutson, DNR	☐ Shannon Haydin, DNR	☒ Chris Clayton, DATCP	☒ Nathan Fikkert, NRCS
☒ Beth Mason, NACD	☐ Dan Zerr, UW-Madison Division of Extension		
WI Land+Water Staff (Non-Voting)			
☒ Matt Krueger	☒ Christina Anderson		

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: 3:01 pm
   - Roll call – adopt agenda
     - **Requested action: vote to approve Motion Hofberger / Gingras. All Ayes.**
   - Approve previous meeting minutes – March 5, 2025

- **Requested action: vote to approve Motion Henry / Turville-Heitz. All Ayes.**

Introduction of NACD Officers, President Gary Blair, and Executive Director Jeremy Peters.
Kim LaFleur past NACD President.
Blair, Peters and LaFleur addressed the Board of Directors (BOD).

2) Advisor Reports – NRCS, DATCP, DNR, Extension, NACD
   - No action requested

NRCS (Fikkert) - $33M EQIP obligated, $40M CSP, contracts continue to be obligated. About 20% of applications funded. Encouraging more decision making on the local workgroup level. Technical/Conservation Practice Standard updates completed and will be released soon. Conservation Practice Standard 590 update will be released before the end of the year.

DATCP (Clayton) - new director of Land and Water Bureau. Staff working on SWRM Grant package for LWCB meeting in August. Nutrient Management update report completed and now online. Upcoming NM Regional meetings. Conservation Engineering staffing is low and working on filling vacant positions. Looking to combine west and north engineering position for better recruitment.

DNR (Knutson) - Preliminary TRM Grant Allocations released. Should be able to fund all TRM applications, despite potential 319 funding reductions. Federal 319 Funding reductions may impact future grants. BITS updates taking place. Inform DNR if any issues in use of BITS. Permit streamlining efforts for CAFO related activities. Improvement on nutrient management planning review timelines.

UWEX (Zerr) - absent

NACD (Mason) - Technical Assistance (TA) Grants: 2024 grant reporting period starting, >$400,000 in grants to 4 counties. 2025 grant awards announced in December. Leadership subcommittee working to engage participation in the Essay Contest. NACD Award nominations are open, consider sending WI L+W award winners or nominees on to the NACD award program.

Recognition of Jimmy Bramblet, former Wisconsin NRCS State Conservationist, was introduced and addressed the BOD.

3) Executive Committee Report – President Bob Micheel
   - No action requested

Discussed update to the officer positions/responsibilities, to help guide officer roles and recruitment of new officers. August 7, financial policy/management subcommittee meeting. Part of this discussion will include the membership dues structure.

4) 2025 Q2 Financials – Treasurer Amy Piaget, Exec. Director Matt Krueger
   - **Requested action: review Profit & Loss Budget-to-Actual; vote to approve Motion Boisvert / Micheel. All Ayes.**

Piaget / Krueger reviewed the Profit & Loss vs. Actual. Discussion/explanation about certain account line items.

5) 2025 Annual Plan Progress – Krueger
   - Requested action: review, discuss

Review of the 2025 WI L+W staff Annual Work Plan. The document shared with the BOD is a work in progress. Staff are working through the development of this work plan format and ways to report it out to the BOD to ensure progress is being made. Goals and activities are referenced back to Strategic Plan. Discussion with BOD.

6) Executive Director's Report – Krueger
   - 2025-27 state biennial budget debrief: Review of what was approved in the State Budget. Big win for conservation effort. First three county positions will receive funding in reference to State Stats. Chapter 92. This is one time funding in each year of 2026 and 2027. Need to continue advocacy for increase to the base funding. After 2027 funding will fall back to base $8.9M. Discussion of what resources worked for member advocacy (i.e. talking points, JFC Hearing messaging, repetition, Wisconsin Counties Association support).
   - Next LCC Coffee & Conversation – renewable energy date and location TBD.
   - County Conservation Meeting (2026, 2027) location change to Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau.
   - Audit update: full audit every three years. This year was a full audit. Audit is completed and results will be provided at October BOD meeting.
   - Office space update: review of challenges with office location in downtown Madison. Looking for new location options in the greater Madison area. Have not identified a new location at this time that provides accessibility and affordability.
   - Conservation Observance Day: changed to a video celebrating the farm, rather than the workload associated with the traditional observance day. Farm Family of the Year Award winner Roger Brindle was featured in the new video format.

7) NACD Meeting Preview – Osterman, Micheel
   - No action requested
     Review of activities, for the following day after BOD meeting. Morning sessions, Urban Tour in the afternoon. Governor Evers will join us in the morning. Tuesday will be field Tours.

8) Next Meeting Date – Wed, October 15, 2025, 9:00 am, Stevens Point Holiday Inn

9) Adjourn: **Motion Turville-Heitz, Osterman declared meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.**