



**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:** March 5, 2025    **Time:** 8:30 am – 11:00 am

**In person:** KI Convention Center, 333 Main St, Green Bay, WI 54301, Riverview 3

**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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Boisvert, Lincoln Co. LSD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Wojchik, Polk Co. LWRD	<input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ortman, Ashland Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Ritter, Marathon Co. ERC
Advisors (Non-Voting)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Anderson, DATCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Shannon Haydin, DNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Clayton, DNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Nathan Fikkert, NRCS
<input checked="" 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 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    **8:32 am.**
  - Roll call – adopt agenda
    - **Requested action: vote to approve Motion Gerhardt / Wojchik. All Ayes.**
  - Approve previous meeting minutes – December 19, 2024

**– Requested action: vote to approve Motion Hofberger / Frank. All Ayes.**

2) Advisor Reports – NRCS, DATCP, DNR, Extension

- No action requested
- Tim Anderson, DATCP: NOPP grants reviewed and awards released soon. SWRM Master Contract update this year. Get correct county contact name to DATCP for the contract. New Bureau Director expected to be in place by mid April. Paying attention to federal activities and any impacts to the agency. Watch for latest DATCP monthly report coming out soon for further updates.
- Beth Mason, NACD: March 26, 2025, Washington DC Spring Fly-in. NACD organizing an advocacy training for participants of the fly-in. Advocacy Training dates are March 18 and March 20. Review in the E-resource newsletter for further details or the following link: <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/spring-fly-in/>  
Reviewed plans for NACD Summer Meeting held in Milwaukee July 24-30. Encouraged review of memos from Jeremy Peters regarding updates to federal activities. Board members asked questions/discussion: youth poster contest appreciation, no updates on the status of NACD technical assistance grants, appreciation for updates from Jeremy Peters.
- Chris Clayton, DNR: reviewed federal activities and impact to DNR grants and funding. EPA funding for certain grants must comply with executive orders, including, but not limited to topics/terms removed from programs such as diversity, equity and inclusion, climate change.  
Runoff management grant applications due April 15. Hydrologic Restoration General Permit is now available, contact Tom Nedland for questions.  
Listening sessions being organized to review the state nutrient reduction strategy. Joe Bonnell would be the point of contact for the nutrient reduction strategy.  
Discussion by members and Clayton.
- Dan Zerr, UWEX: review of uncertainties around federal activities and impacts to funding for the agency. Smith-Lether funding to state land grant systems is being looked at. Any small UWEX partnership grants, that are currently being applied for, will no longer be available.
- Nathan Fikkert, NRCS: Krueger provided update. Fikkert planning to provide an agency update at today's main conference. All other NRCS activity related to attendance of the conference and typical line officer training has been cancelled.

3) Executive Committee Report – President Bob Micheel

- No action requested
- Response to Federal Funding Executive Orders: many uncertainties remain and changes still expected. Cooperative agreements between counties and NRCS through WI L+W remain in effect.  
WI L+W has edited the website to remove terms such as “diversity, equity, inclusion” to align with federal partners and potential impacts if terms remain. “Climate resiliency” terms will remain at this time.  
Development of Board officer rolls is underway to give better clarity to the positions.
- NACD Summer Meeting Tour (July 29, 2025) and Session Ideas: Micheel and Osterman reviewed Summer Meeting agenda and tour stops. Stops will be in the Racine area and may include: wetland restoration site, beach restoration site, regenerative stormwater project, Case IH plant, Microsoft project site, District 20 acre demonstration farm/site, Starry Nights Farm for lunch, ag restoration project, and

potential Waukesha Water Diversion. Some sites may need to be cut due to accommodations for group size and time. Planning to attend Brewer/Cubs game one evening. Discussion by Board members including suggestions of NR151 implementation, wastewater treatment facilities, recycling center, community garden, engineering job approval authority system. A WI L+W Board of Directors meeting will be incorporated within the summer meeting, potentially on Sunday of event. Board member attendance of the NACD Summer meeting encouraged. Specifically for Sunday, July 27– Tuesday, July 29. Registration costs for the event are estimated to be \$450 with some adjustments for attending portions of event. Suggestion to have WI L+W staff spotlight at WI L+W Board meeting to showcase what WI L+W staff do.

- 4) 2024 Financial Report – Treasurer Amy Piaget, Exec. Director Matt Krueger
  - **Requested action: vote to approve Motion Gerhardt / Micheel. All Ayes.**
  - Review by Piaget and Krueger. Discussion by Board members. Income line item 55000 – Climate Resiliency Program: are funds that we received in 2024 for activities in 2025. General accounting principles are being followed yet may create confusion to when the funds can be used. The source of the climate resiliency funds is from private foundations and not federal government funding. This provides diversity in our income to continue with this work and support for WI L+W.  
Expense line item 80000 – Conference: is for expenses associated with the annual conference. Costs for the conference are continuing to rise. Proactive negotiating with venues is more critical going forward.  
Expense line item 96000 – Reserve Fund Contribution: work continues on developing financial policies and procedures to support the organization, which includes the contribution to a reserve fund. Contributions are being set aside in the Operating Budget, but need be moved to reserve account once policy and account is set up.
- 5) Break 10:14 – 10:22
- 6) Request of Each County to Participate in Budget Advocacy Efforts – Krueger
  - Requested action: discuss participation. Review by Krueger and discussion by board members.
  - Intentional push to ask each county to decide how to support staffing grant funding in the state budget. Wisconsin Counties Association has also made this one of their top priorities. Review of Budget Action Checklist. See <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/advocacy-toolkit> for resources and online advocacy toolkit.
- 7) Executive Director's Report – Krueger
  - No action requested
  - Staffing Updates: new staff to conference, Carl Wepking SOC Program Manager; Lou Warpinski Office Manager; Jenny Pethan Climate Program Coordinator.
  - Conference preview:
    - i. LCC Scholarship: 6 of 8 area associations participated in scholarships available.
    - ii. LCC Breakfast Meet & Greet – Thurs, 7:00 - 8:00 am
- 8) Next Meeting Date – During [NACD Summer Meeting](#) (July 24-30), in Milwaukee, WI (exact date TBD)

9) Adjourn **Motion Frank / Turville-Heitz @ 11:00am.**