



## Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Hybrid Mtg) - Approved

**Date:** Oct 15, 2025    **Time:** 8:30 am – 11:30 am

**In person:** Holiday Inn Stevens Point – Conv Ctr, 1001 Amber Ave. Stevens Point, WI 54482, Expo 1

**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"/> <del>Meg Turville Heitz, Jefferson Co. LWCC</del> Alternate Joe Mumm, Grant County CSCZ	<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"/> Jason Knutson, DNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shannon Haydin, DNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Clayton, DATCP	<input 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 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 **8:33 am**
  - Roll call – adopt agenda
    - **Requested action: vote to approve. Motion Gerhardt / Micheel. All Ayes.**
  - Approve previous meeting minutes – July 7, 2025
    - **Requested action: vote to approve. Motion Hofberger / Piaget. All Ayes.**

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

– No action requested

DNR, Shannon Haydin: review of new stormwater permits; joint allocation with DATCP/DNR has been signed and allocations will be made at beginning of 2026 year. New instructions for the grant will be out for public comment. Working to fill vacancies. Large scale energy projects receiving more attention and DNR staff dedicating time to manage interest and permitting. Discussion with board around current rule status related to large scale solar and PFAS.

UWEX, Dan Zerr: due to federal funding cuts, lost around 90 nutrition educators. Updates on other position vacancies. Paying attention to future of NRCS funding for the watershed program.

DATCP, Chris Clayton: New environmental specialist, Cody Overgard, in the engineering section, located in the Northwest. ATCP 52 Emergency Rule, affecting the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) and cover crop funding and rebate program, will be published next week. The request for proposals (RFP) for the next round of NOPP funding will also be released next week.

NRCS, Nathan Fikkert: Not able to attend or provide report due to lapse in Federal funding.

NACD, Monte Osterman: Highlighted overwhelming positive responses from other states in regard to the NACD Summer meeting and tours hosted by WI L+W in July. 2026 Stewardship theme is “Soil”. Urban and Community grants will be on hold due to federal funding impacts.

3) Executive Committee Report – President Bob Micheel

– No action requested

WI L+W Officer Roles and Responsibilities review to compile a document with the expectations of each position. Development of other policies related to NACD membership. Discussion about term limits (i.e. 2,3, or 5 years). Concerns about institutional knowledge lost due to term limits. Concerns about limiting an individual’s willingness to serve. General input from board members was against term limits.

Financial Policy & Reserve Accounts: interviewed several different financial advisor firms. Selected Northstar Resource Group to better manage our financial portfolio. Development of financial policy for the organization is underway. Policy will include reserve accounts, endowments, and other short-term and long-term strategies for the organization.

Membership Dues: still under consideration for potential review and updates. More to come from the Executive Committee in the near future.

4) Impacts of Federal Funding Shutdown – Osterman, all

– No action requested

Federal legislature is at an impasse and there is very little happening to fund the federal government. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is conducting an

impact survey to help advocate for local conservation districts. Survey is available on the NACD website. Board members encouraged to complete the survey. Discussion around shared resources between Land Conservation Departments and NRCS. Access to Conservation Practice Standards and supporting documents are impacted. Counties with contribution agreements or other NRCS funding are on hold. Impact will be greater the longer the lapse in federal funding continues.

- 5) Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award Screening – Exec. Director Matt Krueger
  - No action requested  
Discussion about the change from the traditional Conservation Observance Day event to a video format to highlight the farm and their conservation ethic. The traditional event was overwhelming and compared to hosting a wedding on an individual’s farm. This year will be Roger Bindl, R&B Farms, in Sauk County. A short video was shown and a discussion about how to facilitate the Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award and the new video format to be released at the same time. Discussion around the nomination process. Nominations are open until December 31 for the 2026 award.
- 6) County Conservation Meeting Preview – Krueger
  - No action requested  
Review and discussion of the County Conservation meeting agenda.

**Break: 10:05 – 10:20**

- 7) Executive Director’s Report – Krueger
  - LCC Coffee & Conversation – What’s next? Discussion about new topic ideas for these events: combined local committees (i.e. LCC and Zoning, etc.) and how to facilitate eligible voting, etc.; encourage LCC trainings to follow spring County Board elections.
  - Mini trainings/informational items at BOD meetings: Discussion among members about the need for such trainings; WI L+W staff highlights should continue; other ideas about functional duties of a non-profit board.
  - Quarterly DNR leadership meetings: Discussion about the need for these meetings related to permitting challenges for LCD staff on projects. These meetings are continuing. Some example topics that have been discussed: wetland/waterway permitting; tiling concerns. Often times training events have developed out of these meetings.
  - Potential new funding opportunity: Discussion about correspondence with Nestle/Purina corporation’s interest in passing funding through WI Land+Water to support on-farm conservation via the existing DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Grant Protection Program (DATCP cannot accept the funding directly). This funding would augment the existing program, with WI Land+Water receiving some funding for administrative support. These discussions are very preliminary and much yet to be decided, but there is potential for significant investment from Nestle/Purina in support of this effort. WI Land+Water will pursue continued discussions in pursuit of developing a funding proposal that meets the goals of Nestle, and the mission of WI Land+Water and its members.
- 8) Board Member Updates – Osterman, all

9) Next Meeting Date – Thurs, Dec. 18, 2025, 9:00 am, Schmeckle Reserve, Stevens Point

10) Adjourn: **Motion Gerhardt / Frank. Osterman declared meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.**