



# NORTH CENTRAL AREA

## Land and Water Conservation Association

Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood

Meeting Date: 01-26-2023

**Meeting Location:** Marathon County Government Center

**In Attendance:** Steve Kircher – Forest County, Kayla Littleton – Forest County, Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County, Kirk Langfoss – Marathon County, Kirstie Heidenreich – Marathon County, Dustin McHenry – Marathon County, Laurie Miskimins – Marathon County, Andrew Shep – Marathon County, Tracy Arnold – Portage County, Shane Wucherpennig – Wood County, Rod Mayer – Wood County, Cathy Higley – Vilas County, Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County,

**Counties Present:** Forest, Lincoln, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Oneida, Vilas

**Others Present:** Isabelle Paulson – Wisconsin Land+Water, Christina Anderson – Wisconsin Land+Water

1. Steve Kircher called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of those in attendance.
3. Approval of Agenda.
  - a. **A motion to approve the agenda as presented – Tracy Arnold, Portage County seconded by Carolynn Scholl, Vilas County.**
    - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
4. Approval of 8/12/22 meeting minutes.
  - a. **A motion to approve the 8/12/22 meeting minutes – Tracy Arnold, Portage County, seconded by Shane Wucherpennig, Wood County.**
    - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
5. Area Poster/Speaking Contest
  - a. Adisyn Schoeneck from Oneida County presented her speech titled “The Living Fossil” which focused on the Lake Sturgeon.
    - i. Adisyn placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Grades 5-6 Division.
  - b. Madison Stueland from Marathon County presented her speech titled “Conserving Our Resources” which focused on reducing your carbon footprint.
    - i. Madison placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Grades 5-6 Division.
  - c. Katelyn McNelly from Portage County presented her speech titled “Is Solar Power a Good Conservation Tool?”
    - i. Katelyn placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Grades 7-8 Division.
  - d. Amber Higley from Vilas County presented her speech titled “You Might Like These Fleas” which focused on *Daphnia*, spiny water fleas, and snow fleas.
    - i. Amber placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Grades 9-12 Division.

6. Secretary's Report
  - a. No report available.
7. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Kirk Langfoss gave an update on the 2023 budget. Kirk had submitted a report to NCLWCA to help aide in discussion.
  - b. Carolyn Scholl asked if Kirk had sent out the annual dues notice. He has not yet, but he plans to do so in the near future. Kirstie Heidenreich asked what the area dues are currently set at. Currently, they are at \$200.
  - c. **A motion to approve the Treasurer's report – Tracy Arnold, Portage County, seconded by Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County.**
    - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
8. Area Contest Cost Discussion
  - a. Carolyn Scholl had discussed that Vilas County had traditionally paid for the teachers and students that represented their area. Michele Sadauskas stated that Oneida County has done the same.
  - b. Carolyn Scholl stated that NCLWCA traditionally is invoiced by the County hosting the Area Contest for expenses to host the contest (prizes/trophies/food).
  - c. **Motion to have NCLWCA cover the cost of each participant, one county staff from each representative county, one LCC supervisor from each representative county, and up to two guests for each participant in the area poster and speaking contest and that the bylaws of the NCLWCA are changed to reflect this – Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, seconded by Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County.**
    - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
9. President's Report
  - a. Jim Winkler was unable to attend the meeting.
  - b. No report available.
10. Youth Education Update
  - a. Patty Benedict, Youth Education Committee Representative, submitted an update.
  - b. Poster and Speaking Contests
    - i. The State contests will be in-person at the annual conference at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Area contest winners must be submitted to Kim Warkentin – [kim@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:kim@wisconsinlandwater.org) by Wednesday, February 8, 2023.
  - c. WI Envirothon
    - i. The 2023 Wisconsin Envirothon will be held on Friday, April 21 at the Central Wisconsin Lions Camp, Rosholt, WI. The current issue is "Adapting to a Changing Climate". The national competition will be held July 23-29, 2023 at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.
    - ii. Please consider including a \$55 contribution (or more) in your budgets for the WI Envirothon.
  - d. Conservation Camps
    - i. The middle school camp for students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 will be held June 14-17, 2023 at Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells.
    - ii. The high school camp for students entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be held June 19-22, 2022 at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters.
  - e. Silent Auction

- i. ITEMS ARE NEEDED! Visit <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/assets/article/2023-SA-Item-Request.docx> for item suggestions, sample solicitation and thank you letters. Following is the link to submit items: [LINK](#)
- ii. Items can be submitted anytime. Please bring or make arrangements to bring items to the Annual Conference.
- iii. Online bidding will begin prior to and continue throughout the in-person Annual Conference.
- iv. Silent Auction proceeds support youth education programs: WI Envirothon, Poster and Speaking and two conservation camps

## 11. County Updates

- a. Florence County
  - i. No update.
- b. Forest County
  - i. Steve Kircher gave an update.
  - ii. Steve is planning to retire in the coming years, and Kayla Littleton is planned to move into his position.
- c. Langlade County
  - i. No report from Langlade County.
- d. Lincoln County
  - i. Tom Boisvert gave an update.
  - ii. The Lincoln County Nonmetallic Mining (NMM) program recently went through an audit with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). There have been challenges with financial assurance requirements requested by WDNR staff, and Lincoln County is working to resolve these issues.
  - iii. Lincoln County will be adding another Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) LTE for the summer period. Tom is excited to continue growing this program.
  - iv. Lincoln County is starting a Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program for the 2023 season.
  - v. Tom has been busy designing cost-share projects during the winter months. Since bond funds were transferred from 2022-2023 this next construction season is expected to be very busy with implementing cost-share projects.
- e. Marathon County
  - i. Kirstie Heidenreich gave an update.
  - ii. Groundwater funding has been approved – approximately \$300,000. Through this funding, approximately 1,000 wells are planned to be tested.
  - iii. Atrazine is something that the well testing program is going to be focused on. The results of this testing may bring forth additional atrazine restriction areas in Marathon County.
  - iv. Marathon County is going to be starting a Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program this coming season. A focus area for the WAV program will be in the Fenwood Creek watershed.
  - v. Fenwood Creek is supposed to have a 25% reduction of total phosphorus by 2024. Marathon County is really trying to promote soil health practices to accomplish this. Hard practices that reduce phosphorus are also planned to be implemented when possible.
- f. Oneida County
  - i. Michele Sadauskas gave an update.
  - ii. Oneida is awaiting notification from WDNR for a surface water grant they applied for. The grant is planned to be used to assist in studying the effects of wake boats, provide outreach materials, and other associated activities.

- iii. Since the watersheds in Oneida County are currently healthy, they are focused on protection of their watersheds rather than restoration.
  - iv. Finished the stream crossing inventory project. There was recently a webinar showing the results of this project. With these results Oneida County is planning to work with local municipalities to repair and/or replace problem crossings.
  - v. Oneida and Vilas Counties are working together to provide light pollution outreach in the near future.
- g. Portage County
- i. Busy administering the Nonmetallic Mining (NMM) program. Reclamation permits and annual operator permits are coming in at this time.
  - ii. The Healthy Lakes program is going strong in Portage County. For the 2023 season, 16 projects are anticipated to be installed.
  - iii. The Managed Grazing program is becoming more popular and Portage County would gladly accept bond funds if a county needs to transfer some. Currently, there are more projects than there is funding.
  - iv. The local producer led watershed groups are becoming more active. Tracy is helping with outreach/education within this group.
  - v. There is a strong Prairie/pollinator program with the local schools. Portage County raises native plants that kids can then plant in school prairie. A greenhouse was recently obtained to help grow this project.
- h. Vilas County
- i. Carolyn Scholl gave an update.
  - ii. Carolyn asked Shane Wucherpfennig to share his American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding proposal with the NCLWCA group. Shane said that he would do so.
  - iii. Currently completing the annual work plan for 2023 and the associated budget.
  - iv. Wake boat issues are becoming more common in Vilas County. Several local municipalities are trying to pass local ordinances to regulate these vessels. There is conflict within these municipalities regarding this issue.
  - v. A new AIS Coordinator will be coming on as an LTE in May. AIS Coordination is a high priority in Vilas County. AIS efforts in Vilas County are split between Lac Du Flambeau, The North Lakeland Discovery Center, and Vilas County staff.
  - vi. A watershed protection project is underway. Currently, no watersheds in Vilas County need rehabilitation. Thus, the priority is focused on protection of these watersheds.
  - vii. The Healthy Lakes program is becoming very successful in Vilas County.
  - viii. Carolyn, Dave Ferris – Burnett County, and Paul McGinley – UWSP Professor, are working on developing a model to show the nutrient reductions for smaller lakeshore practices.
  - ix. There is a staff botanist that is heavily involved with pollinator habitat. They are in the process of developing a native seed library.
  - x. Vilas will be pursuing a larger grant for shoreland protection projects in the next WDNR grant cycle.
  - xi. Cathy Higley finished a lake assessment study in Vilas County. Vilas County lakes are showing higher P counts overall.
- i. Wood County
- i. Shane Wucherpfennig gave an update.

- ii. The annual tree sale just wrapped up – approximately 20,000 trees were sold. Challenges filling orders from nurseries is becoming more common.
- iii. 9KE plan is moving into year four.
- iv. 3 active MDV projects going on in Wood County.
- v. A proposal to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was sent in to the oversight committee. One component is to help private landowners with nitrate issues in their wells. Soil health practices are outlined in this proposal as well. Cost sharing for these practices would be available.
- vi. A groundwater study was just completed with six counties. Focused on well contaminations such as nitrates.
- vii. Wood County has finished their well study and will be comparing that with the UWSP groundwater viewer.
- viii. NMFE program is going on currently with the other collaborating Counties.

#### 12. Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Report

- a. Robert Thome was unable to attend this meeting.
- b. No update available.

#### 13. Agency Reports

- a. Isabelle Paulson reminded everyone that the Wisconsin Land+Water Conference is coming up. The early bird registration fee will end soon.
- b. The budget priorities for Wisconsin Land+Water were discussed by Christina Anderson. Conservation staffing is the biggest budget priority.
- c. Christina Anderson gave an overview of the resolution process - specifically about the resolution Carolyn Scholl submitted. Christina stated that it would probably be best to send this to the Legislative & Administration Committee so that further discussion could be had. Agency professionals could be invited to weigh in on this issue.

#### 14. 2023 Calendar/Planning

- a. Tracy Arnold said the spring virtual meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- b. Steve said the summer tour will be on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Event times will be determined as the date approaches.

#### 15. Resolutions

- a. Wake boat Issue Resolution
- b. A motion for NCLWCA to approve the resolution as presented, and move it along to the Legislative & Administration Committee for further discussion – Tom Boisvert, Lincoln County, seconded by Steve Kircher, Forest County.**
  - i. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

#### 16. Other Business

- a. None.

#### 17. Adjourn at 1:55 p.m.

- 1. Motion to adjourn made by Tracy Arnold, Portage County, seconded by Steve Kircher, Forest County.**
  - a. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

#### **Next meeting:**

Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. (Virtual – hosted by Portage County)

<b>Host</b>			
	<b>Planning Meeting/ Area Poster &amp; Speaking Contest January/February</b>	<b>Virtual Spring Meeting May/June</b>	<b>Summer tour/Meeting August/September</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>	<b>FOREST</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>	<b>VILAS</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>	<b>WOOD</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>
<b>2026</b>	<b>VILAS</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>
<b>2027</b>	<b>WOOD</b>	<b>FOREST</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>
<b>2028</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>
<b>2029</b>	<b>FOREST</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>	<b>VILAS</b>
<b>2030</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>	<b>WOOD</b>
<b>2031</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER ALPHABETICAL</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER</b>

Minutes taken and prepared by Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, NCLWCA Secretary

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