



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Technical Committee Meeting Notes

Date: March 21, 2024 **Time:** 9:00am-12:00 pm **Location:** Zoom Only

PC/Laptop/Tablet/Smart Phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85744622720>

Phone Dial-in: 312-626-6799; **Meeting ID:** 857 4462 2720

Mission: Lead WI Land+Water technical assistance activities related to the innovation, evaluation and implementation of conservation practices, standards, services, and the associated programs and policies.

Committee Members

- Matt Hanewall, Chair Shawn Esser, Vice Chair Tina Barone, Sec.
- Ketty Clow Ben Dufford Paul Fredrich Brian Goepfert
- Erik Heagle Paul Klose Zach Mohr Jonathon Lisowe
- Dan O'Connell Ken Pozorski Brian Smetana Chad Trudell

Non-Voting Advisors

- Matthew Woodrow – DATCP Liz Usborne – DNR Eric Hurley - NRCS

WI Land+Water Staff Liaison (non-voting)

- Kate Brunner

Invited Guests

- Bob Micheel
- Guests – Klayton Kree,
Taylor; Marissa Castello,
Waukesha

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

- I. Call to order: 9:06 am
 - a. Roll Call: see above
 - b. Adopt agenda: Motion by Heagle to add agenda item 11 (XI) after Navigability item. Lisowe 2nd. Motion passed. Motion to adopt agenda with amendment made by Esser 2nd Heagle. Motion passed
 - c. Approve previous meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes by Esser 2nd Clow. Motion passed.
- II. Conference Review (All)
 - a. Good: attendance high, Land+Water did great job, Ketty & Heagle's presentations were great, sold all 50/50 raffle tickets
 - b. Bad: too much good stuff you can't possibly see it all
 - c. Can it be moved to a bigger venue in the future? Locked in for a few years. It is difficult to find a big place.
 - d. What are the barriers to not attending: County budget, workload, planned vacations, distance to travel
 - e. Is it possible to offer a hybrid option in the future? It is really expensive, and the conference is to encourage networking so currently this is not an option that can feasibly be done. Negative feedback from virtual conference so do not plan to do again.
 - f. How do we get our Supervisors to attend? Talk about at Committee meetings and invite them
- III. Recognition of Service Provided by Brian Goepfert (All)
 - a. Brian wasn't able to attend today so moved this item to the end just in case he can join the meeting late. Plans to retire in May.
- IV. Recruitment of New Technical Committee member from the SE Area (Smetana)
 - a. Smetana will likely be retiring before 2025 conference. Will stay on the Committee through the end of the year.
 - b. Smetana would like to nominate Marissa Castello to join the Committee.
 - c. Castello will formally introduce herself at the next meeting and we will have an official vote then.
- V. Other WI Land and Water News (Brunner)
 - a. Hiring a new Climate Specialist
 - b. Christina promoted to Assistant Director
 - c. Land+Water Conservation Board Elections were moved until after elections
 - d. WI Land+Water initiative to get more technical County staff on Committees. Making a concerted effort to get more younger staff involved.
 - e. Urban Stormwater Symposium in April – free for County employees (code in email)
- VI. SOC Update (Brunner)

- a. 590 active team motivated to make better. A year or more out since waiting on a national standard
- b. VTA was out for public comment. Goal was to scale back and keep a tight local practice. Received quite a few comments. Clow suggested that the Technical Committee could help provide training on the reference tools in the standard, very specific modeling required now. NRCS plans to do outreach and training on the software. Brunner will try to connect all appropriate parties on training. Brunner can ask Steve Becker to come discuss what has changed at the next meeting. Hanewall said this is likely a topic that should be at the next Conference too.
- c. Stormwater standards. Dry ponds and amendment to wet ponds. They are close and should be out for public comment this year. Brunner will ask Dan Bekta or Amy Minser to present at the next meeting.

VII. NRCS Conservation Practice Ranking Criteria (Micheel)

- a. County staff work on design for landowners and ranking requires final designs for ranking process and it takes a lot of county staff time without assurance that it will actually be installed due to unknown funding and commitment of landowners
- b. Act Now is a pilot project that is being tried out to address these issues.
- c. Some states rank every two weeks to move projects forward faster.
- d. Micheel would like Technical Committee and WI Land+Water to support Act Now
- e. Esser asked if there are examples from other states that work? Information from Regional Conservationist is other states are using Act Now program to move projects forward faster. NRCS WI admitted they are late adopters to this program. More modifications will likely be required if using Act Now.
- f. With ACT Now is the funding secured at the first meeting? Example: Meet with the landowner to assess the erosion issue and decide on practice (grade stabilization structure). Landowner signs up for EQIP then they meet with NRCS (at this point will need drainage area for ranking). NRCS could complete ranking in an hour or so and tell landowner if going to get funded before they walk out the door.
- g. Heagle said keep in mind permits and everything else must be done (shovel ready). Concerns with amount of money from Federal programs decreasing County signups because they are all going to the Feds.
- h. NRCS Ranking sometimes denies needed projects (active gullies) from being addressed because ranked lower than other projects
- i. County funded projects can get on the ground faster than NRCS. Most Counties work well with NRCS on trading projects.
- j. Micheel would like Act Now adopted and is requesting Esser recommend this to the NRCS State Technical Committee. Motion WI Land+Water Technical Committee recommend to NRCS State Technical Committee adopting the ACT Now program in the state of Wisconsin by Esser. 2nd by Trudell. Barone

abstained due to not having enough information about the Act Now program.
Motion passed.

- VIII. Proposed Additions to the Climate Smart Conservation Practice List (Micheel)
 - a. Only practices for sequestering carbon
 - b. 410 (grade stabilization structure) does not fall into climate smart practices
 - c. 412 (grassed waterway) is included because of the grasses planted
 - d. 410s can qualify as a component to 412 that provide a stable outlet but it isn't a stand-alone practice because it doesn't sequester carbon.
 - e. Not related to NRCS Priority practices we discussed last summer
 - f. Comet planning tool will likely be used more in the future
- IX. Tiling Concerns Subcommittee Update & Appointment (Hanewall)
 - a. Discussion about who to appoint to this mixed Subcommittee. Barone was suggested as representative but would also like a representative from the Great Lakes region.
 - b. Chad Trudell volunteered to serve on this Subcommittee as the Great Lakes (Lake Michigan) representative
 - c. Motion by Heagle to appoint Trudell and Barone to join Subcommittee. 2nd by Smetana. Motion passed.
 - d. Barone will email Trudell the upcoming meeting information and copy Matt Krueger on the email so he can send Trudell the meeting invite
- X. La Crosse County Navigability/Shoreland Zoning Watershed Assessment (Hanewall)
 - a. Using existing tools and resources that we have access to create a map that identifies navigable areas.
 - b. Rough County-wide GIS layer for navigability and DNR has been supportive so far
 - c. If site is contested they will complete an assessment and DNR can do assessment. If determination changes they will change the GIS file
- XI. Floodplain Discussion through WCCA (Wisconsin County Code Administrators) regarding FEMA & DNR
 - a. Need to have more floodplain training
 - b. Inconsistency in local permitting
 - c. DNR having initial discussions
 - d. Who's determining, what are requirements?
 - e. Keep using the Floodplain checklist on projects
 - f. DATCP hiring H&H Engineer that will perform H&H studies for conservation projects (County & NRCS) and assist with preparing training related to H&H and HEC-RAS.
- XII. SITCOM (AITCOM) Update (O'Connell)
 - a. O'Connell requested Heagle send information about requested training for Floodplain to add to the SITCOM list
 - b. Mentorship is going well. Clow said currently have 6 matches. Clow starting a peer cohort with younger technicians. Technical with career twist. PE track group

getting setup. Looking for mentor in northeast (farming, technical). If interested in serving as a mentor email Clow

- c. SITCOM goals in the future - Move forward effectively with the trainings and looking to increase people involved
- d. Discussion about a task force to help out the AITCOMs. AITCOMs vary greatly among the state.
- e. If anyone is interested in sitting on Committee O'Connell would be willing to give up his seat. Most meetings are virtual. O'Connell has dedicated many years serving on both SITCOM and Technical Committee.

XIII. 2024 Technical Tour Planning (Clow)

- a. Clow said CAFO agreed to take part in tour
- b. October date
- c. Showcase cover crops and unconventional crops (hemp, rice, barley)
- d. Community well program
- e. CAFO – DATCP Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) research site presentation at lunch
- f. Show 3 liner manure storage structure
- g. Will request funds for transportation
- h. A small fee for registration will be used to cover the cost of lunch
- i. Will have porta potties available
- j. WI Land+Water has \$700 set aside for it
- k. Brunner will connect with Clow on details about past tours
- l. Possible future tour topics – Calumet may be willing to host, 2025 or 2026
Historic Coon Creek Watershed dams will likely be decommissioned

XIV. Review Guiding Principles: Committee Membership and Officer Assignments (All)

- a. WI Land+Water asks the Committee to think about officer assignments and commitments. Hanewall will add to next meeting.
- b. Current Officer Assignments
 - i. Esser said he is willing to continue as Vice
 - ii. Barone is willing to continue with Secretary
 - iii. Hanewall said that he would be happy to step aside if someone was interested in the Chair position but will continue if no one else is interested. He asked that people reach out to him if interested.

*Return to item Recognition of Service Provided by Brian Goepfert (All) Goepfert has served on this committee for 20 years. During his time on the Committee he served on the 634 waste transfer SOC team, served as Secretary for the Technical Committee, served on 313 team and was instrumental in providing comments. The Technical Committee thanks him for his many years of service and all his contributions to conservation in the state.

XV. Adjourn 11:55 am

- a. Motion to adjourn by O'Connell 2nd by Mohr. Motion passed.