



# Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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## Great Lakes Committee

### Meeting Minutes

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| <b>Date: Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021</b>   |   |
| <b>Start Time: 2pm</b>   | <b>Approximate End Time: 3:00 P.M.</b>        |
| <b>Location:</b>   | Conference Call / Zoom Meeting                |
| <b>Conference Phone:</b>   | (312) 626-6799                                |
| <b>Conf ID:</b>  | Meeting ID: 814 9268 4248<br>Passcode: 316373 |
| <p><b>Committee Members:</b> Greg Coulthurst, Door Co. (Chair); Ashley Vande Voort, Douglas Co.; (Vice-Chair); Davina Bonness, Kewaunee Co. (Secretary); Steve Keith, Milwaukee Co.; Scott Frank, Shawano Co.; Andy Holschbach, Ozaukee Co.; Heather Palmquist, Iron Co.; Ken Dolata, Oconto Co.; VACANT, Winnebago Co.; MaryJo Gingras, Ashland Co.; Paul Sebo, Washington Co.; Chris Arrowood, Langlade Co.; Tyler Betry, Sheboygan County</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Greg Coulthurst, Ashley Vande Voort, Davina Bonness, Steve Keith, Scott Frank, Ken Dolata, MaryJo Gingras, Andy Holschbach, Heather Palmquist, Chris Arrowood, Donalea Dinsmore, Zach Zopp, Todd Breiby, Penny Pohle, Paul Sebo</p> <p><b>Non-Voting Advisors:</b> Donalea Dinsmore, Office of Great Waters; Mike Friis &amp; Todd Breiby, DOA WI Coastal Management; Zach Zopp, DATCP</p> <p><b>WI Land+Water Staff:</b> Penny Pohle, Conservation Training &amp; Membership Services Manager (Treasurer)</p> <p><b>Absent Committee Members:</b> Tyler Betry</p> |   |
| <p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WI Land+Water Meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person or via conference phone if available.</li> <li>• More volunteers are welcome to participate. If interested, please join in-person or via the conference call option.</li> <li>• Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Next Meeting Time: TBD</b>  |   |

1. **Call to order** by Greg Coulthurst at 2:08 pm
2. **Roll Call – Above**
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with the date change of Approval of Minutes to October 22, 2020 was made by Andy Holschbach and seconded by Ashley Vande Voort. Committee was unanimous in vote.
4. **Approval of Minutes – October 22, 2020:** Motion to approve the October 22, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Andy Holschbach and seconded by Scott Frank. Committee was unanimous in vote.
5. **Webinar Comments – USACE Program Overview:** Excellent webinar with a total of 64 participants; opportunity for more webinars is out there; and green infrastructure in Milwaukee was also excellent – want to do more in other communities (Donalea); MaryJo Gingras is starting to work with USACE – on a wetland project (green infrastructure work). Funding in Army Corps is underutilized – webinar helped showcase those opportunities; Resiliency (think about as well); Penny will send out the PowerPoint and add to our website.
6. **Great Lakes Committee Annual Meeting/Tour Grant Application Draft:** Ashley put together a draft Grant Application to increase attendance at annual tours. First draft -- \$100 flat rate (award); limit of 1 grant/per year/per county; applicant must be greater than 100 miles from the annual meeting location; committee would determine as a whole who is eligible and deny or approve depending on eligibility and grant parameters. No decision was made at this time because an in-person annual tour is highly unlikely in 2021.

Committee Comments:

- Date deadline possibly have May 1 annually; easier to remember. However, the dates of the annual tour change depending on what county is hosting. Solid date deadline? If approved by the committee, we need more than a couple weeks (but maybe not need several months) to get on the meeting agenda for the Board and maybe need to vote on by

committee. What if we get 5 applicants and we only get together quarterly? Possibility of an electronic vote (Special meeting with 1-2 agenda items). Discussion on 100-mile limit or have an additional priority for longer distance (i.e. over 100 miles)? We may have too many people applying then? 50 miles? Preference could be given to those furthest away? All up for discussion.

- Overall, everyone seemed to like the format of the application.
- Add to next annual meeting agenda to discussion / approve.
- Send additional thoughts/comments to Ashley and Greg.

7. **Mini Grants:** Door County submitted a mini grant – Greg gave an overview of a research study on human indicators in Door County – 6 different springs and the land-use surrounding them – high nitrates level in one spring (Dune Lake). Why are the nitrates doubling? Door County wants to take additional samples for nitrates; repeat the study with Dave Hart at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Door County is asking for \$888.00 through this mini-grant application. Total cost of project is just under \$5,000.

Ashley Vande Voort took over the meeting for the vote. Motion to approve Door County’s grant was made by Andy Holschbach and MaryJo Gingras seconded. Committee was unanimously in favor of the vote (Greg Coulthurst abstained).

8. **New Committee Members:** Chris Arrowood, Langlade County, would like to become an official member.

Heather Palmquist made the motion to add Chris Arrowood from Langlade County to become an official member of the Great Lakes Committee and Scott Frank seconded that motion. Committee was unanimously in favor of the vote.

9. **Great Lakes Committee Annual Meeting/Tour Grant Application draft:** May be meeting by Zoom the rest of this year. Don’t plan to hold the tour this year in Ashland County. Instead of an in-person tour this year, possibly do PowerPoint presentations on something unique in the county, special funding, cutting edge. Let Greg know if you are interested in doing a presentation. Steve suggested involving a musician with a conservation vent.

## 10. Reports

### a. Advisors

**Donalea Dinsmore (Office of Great Waters):** The following are up-coming grants – funding opportunities and a conference that may be interesting:

Conservation Kick: They have \$10,000 for a project in Wisconsin. The focus is implementing conservation projects that function as source water protection – think nitrogen reduction since that tends to be a problem for water supplies that use groundwater. Note: Christina Anderson shared the fact sheet with this group previously. The goal of Conservation Kick is to facilitate credit generating practices, but expand the universe of buyers to include water utilities and others that would benefit from conservation on the land, so in that way it is more of a “pay for performance” model than an actual water quality trading market (though, the framework could support traditional compliance trades). NRCS will also be promoting this.

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL): Donalea sent the announcement to the listserv earlier. There are specific categories that address ag and urban nonpoint sources. In addition, there are specific funds designated for the Lake Michigan basin and for green infrastructure in the MMSD service area. The Request for Proposals is available at [www.nfwf.org/greatlakes](http://www.nfwf.org/greatlakes). They are hosting a webinar on February 2 at 10 AM Central Time.

GLC – Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP): Requests for proposals will be released soon. The maximum award is \$200,000. Last year’s applications from WI were excellent, and one was actually funded in a larger amount through GLRI. Donalea is on the work group, and it really helps to know what applications are coming in the event that there are questions.

Fox Wolf Watershed Association Conference is March 2 – 4 from 8:30 – 1:30 daily. Presentations include both agricultural and urban practices. Many speakers are from beyond the Fox-Wolf watersheds.

**Zach Zopp (DATCP):** Zach Introduced himself as the Agricultural Impact Statement Program Manager / Land and Water Program Specialist. Zach stated that he also assists the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) and coordinates LWCB meetings.

The Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey has begun in northeastern WI. The AEM Survey will measure depth to bedrock in Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan counties and serves as a resource for landowners who mechanically apply manure to cropland. The results of the survey will also be used to enforce manure application restrictions under NR 151.075, such that manure application is prohibited where a depth to Silurian bedrock of two feet or less is present and other restrictions apply for depths 20-feet or less. Additional information on the AEM Survey can be found on the DATCP website at [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/aemsurvey.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/aemsurvey.aspx)

Supplemental Segregated (SEG) allocation applications to fund county land conservation departments are due February 15, 2021.

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has authorized the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) FFY2021 enrollment under CRP sign up #55 and began accepting offers on October 1, 2020. CREP enrollment will remain open until September 30, 2021 unless otherwise notified by FSA. More information on CREP enrollment can be found on DATCP website at [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/CREP.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CREP.aspx)

The Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) program is accepting petitions for the 2021 cycle through August 2, 2021 and is continuing to publish AEA Snapshots which highlight individual AEA around WI. More information on the AEA program and Snapshots can be found on DATCP website at [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/AgriculturalEnterpriseAreas.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AgriculturalEnterpriseAreas.aspx)

**Todd Breiby (DOA WI Coastal Management):** 11th Annual St. Louis River Summit: Resilient Ecosystems, Resilient Communities. Virtual summit on March 1-3, 2021. If interested, more information, including registration link can be found at <https://lakesuperiorreserve.org/summit/>

The Wisconsin Coastal Beaches Working Group will continue to hold quarterly webinars on a diversity of topics related to beaches, coastal nearshore waters, and water quality. The fall 2020 webinar was on Great Lakes water levels and impacts. The WCBWG will hold the next webinar on March 12, 1 – 2:30 pm and will feature coastal wetlands and the services provided to water quality, flood management, and nearshore habitat. A save the date will go out in mid-February. If interested in joining the list serve, you can subscribe by emailing [wicoastalbeaches+subscribe@g-groups.wisc.edu](mailto:wicoastalbeaches+subscribe@g-groups.wisc.edu).

UW Sea Grant, WI Coastal Management Program, and WI Marine Association co-administer the WI Clean Marina Program. UW Sea Grant and WI Coastal Management, through funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund are constructing green infrastructure practices at Barkers Island Marina in Superior. And through funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan, will plan, design, and construct green infrastructure practices at marinas along the Lake Michigan coast. Monitoring will also be conducted at marinas and will include metals and possibly microplastics.

The WI Coastal Management Program is currently working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other Great Lakes coastal management programs to secure funding through USACE to implement a Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study. The proposed watershed study would assess vulnerabilities over a range of future condition scenarios and stressors and identify a wide array of structural, non-structural, natural, and nature-based, and regulatory measures to improve coastal resilience.

WI Coastal Management Program, UW Sea Grant, UW-Madison, and SEWRPC continue to implement a multi-year project through funding from the NOAA Coastal Resiliency Program to build resiliency in southeast Wisconsin, targeting bluffs, shorelines, beaches, and ports/harbors. There are several products and resources available at:

Education and Guidance on Resilient Practices

<https://sewicoastalresilience.org/resilience-resources/develop-educational-resources-on-resilient-practices/>

Assess and Map Shoreline Change

<https://sewicoastalresilience.org/resilience-resources/assess-and-map-shoreline-change/>

Also, through this project, beach resiliency guidance is currently in production and will be available later this year.

WI Coastal Management Program (WCMP) will have the next RFP (2022-23) available beginning August 2021 with an application deadline of early November 2021. To find out more about the grant program please go to <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/CoastalGrants.aspx>.

Habitat and water quality projects that are recommended for funding in the current 2021-22 RFP include development or revision of nine key element watershed plans, stream and habitat restoration projects, updating coastal hydrography

geospatial data to assist with nonpoint pollution planning, stormwater management, and microbial source tracking at beaches.

If interested in the WCMP grant program, or want to discuss potential projects, please contact Todd Breiby at [todd.breiby@wisconsin.gov](mailto:todd.breiby@wisconsin.gov).

- b. Treasurers:** Penny Pohle reported a balance of \$12,066.55 and that Kim Warkentin is working on entering the county paid dues.
  - c. Other:** None
- 11. Next Meeting:** A poll will be sent out around June 1<sup>st</sup> for possible July dates.
- 12. Adjourn:** At 3:21 p.m. Andy Holschbach motioned and MaryJo Gingras seconded to adjourn the meeting. Committee was unanimous to adjourn.