



NORTH CENTRAL AREA

Land and Water Conservation Association

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

Meeting Date: 5/16/23

Meeting Location: Virtual – Hosted by Portage County

In Attendance: Scott Goodwin – Florence County, Steve Kircher – Forest County, Chris Arrowood – Langlade County, Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County, Kirk Langfoss – Marathon County, Kirstie Heidenreich – Marathon County, Jared Mader – Marathon County, Andrew Shep – Marathon County, Brooke Bembeneck – Marathon County, Tracy Arnold – Portage County, Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County, Kyle Andreae – Wood County, Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County,

Counties Present: Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Oneida, Vilas

Others Present: Isabelle Paulson – Wisconsin Land+Water

1. Steve Kircher called the meeting to order at 9:02 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: Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County, seconded by Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County.**
 - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
4. Approval of 1/26/23 meeting minutes.
 - a. **A motion to approve the 1/26/23 meeting minutes: Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, seconded by Kirstie Heidenreich – Marathon County.**
 - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
5. Secretary's Report
 - a. Tom Boisvert informed the group that he is the representative to the Legislative/Administrative Committee for WI Land+Water. As such, he will try and inform the group of various topics that are discussed within this committee. Tom can also act as a voice for NCLWCA as needed.
 - i. Carolynn asked if Tom could make a bulleted list of items that the Leg/Admin committee works on, and distribute that before each NCLWCA meeting. Tom agreed to do this.
 - b. Tom informed the group of the following:
 - i. ATCP 50 Draft Rule is out for review and will be discussed at the next Leg/Admin meeting.
 - ii. The Wisconsin Wetlands Association has submitted legislation (AB 222 and SB 222) that may result in a grant program that focusses on pre-disaster flood mitigation. This proposed program would use wetlands as a solution.
 - iii. The Fenwood Creek Pilot Program is also gaining traction within the legislature (SB 220 & AB 220).

1. Kirstie gave an update on Fenwood Creek Pilot Program. Recently, Kirstie and Brooke Bembeneck went to the capitol to testify on this program and its possibilities.
 - a. Shane asked if CAFO's can participate in the program if approved. Kirstie stated that they would be allowed to participate. One CAFO uses a large portion of the Fenwood Creek Watershed, so this is a good opportunity.
 - b. Lots of letters of support. Legislators appeared to be receptive to the idea.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. Kirk shared the proposed 2024 NCLWCA budget and explained it in detail. The floor was opened up for discussion afterwards.
- b. Discussion regarding the NACD and WI Land+Water Delegate line items were discussed. Carolyn Scholl suggested leaving the numbers alone/decreasing slightly. Michele Sadauskas and Tom Boisvert suggested zeroing out the line items, but leaving them there for future use. Funds would then go towards the winter meeting (poster and speaking contests).
- c. **A motion to zero the amounts in the NACD and WI Land+Water Delegate line items, but to keep them in the budget for future use as needed: Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County, seconded by Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County.**
 - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
 1. \$1,350 was approved to be transferred to the winter meeting/poster and speaking contest line item.
- d. **A motion to increase the Envirothon donation to \$500: Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, seconded by Kirstie Heidenreich – Marathon County.**
 - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
- e. **A motion to approve the 2024 budget as revised: Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, seconded by Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County.**
 - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

7. By-Law Changes Discussion

- a. Although it was voted at the previous NCLWCA meeting to revise the by-laws to incorporate eligible reimbursement expenses for the Poster/Speaking Contest and associated meeting, Tom Boisvert highlighted that the NCLWCA members were not provided the by-laws to review before-hand. As such, that motion was nullified. The motion will still be incorporated into the previous meeting minutes for records.
- b. It was determined that Tom Boisvert will develop a draft by-law amendment before the next NCLWCA meeting. This amendment will be similar to the original motion in the previous meeting's minutes.

8. President's Report

- a. There was no report available.

9. Youth Education Update

- a. Patty Benedict provided the report.
- b. Poster and Speaking Contests
 - i. The State Poster and Speaking contests took place as part of the WI Land+Water Annual Conference at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells.
 - ii. Posters were judged by attendees. From the North Central Area, placing second in the Elementary Division was Madeline McNelly, Portage County, and first in the Middle Division was Pearl Carriveau, Portage County. Pearl's poster advances to the NACD contest in early 2024.

- iii. In the Speaking Contest, the North Central Area ran the table, taking first place in all three divisions! Elementary Division - Adisyn Schoeneck (Oneida County); Junior Division - Katelyn McNelly (Portage County); Senior Division - Amber Higley (Vilas County). The three speakers performed their speeches on March 1 at the opening lunch in front of approximately 450 attendees.
- c. WI Envirothon
 - i. The WI Envirothon took place on April 21, completely in person for the first time in several years. The current issue theme was "Adapting to a Changing Climate". Testing took place at four stations: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, and Wildlife. A total of 22 teams participated - 16 high school and six middle school teams. Sun Prairie East High School took first place overall and will represent Wisconsin at the National Conservation Foundation-Envirothon, July 23-29 at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada. The first place FFA team was from Elkhorn.
- d. Conservation Camps
 - i. Registration deadline is May 31. Contact Kim Warkentin – kim@wisconsinlandwater.org to see if late registration is possible or if you are interested in volunteering. Male counselors may be needed.
 - ii. The Middle School camp for students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 will be held June 14-17, 2023 at Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells. There are accommodations for 80 campers. Cost is \$200 if paid by May 10 or \$250 if paid after.
 - iii. High school camp for students entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be held June 19-22, 2023 at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters. Attendance is capped at 25 campers. Cost is \$350 if paid by May 10 or \$400 if paid after.
- e. Silent Auction
 - i. The platform was www.32auctions.com/wilandandwater
 - ii. \$6,883.32 was raised
 - iii. Portage County won the "Kickin' it for the Kids" traveling trophy for the highest total bids.
 - iv. Silent Auction proceeds support youth education programs: WI Envirothon, Poster and Speaking contests and two conservation camps.
 - v. Thank you to counties that donated items!
10. Resignation of WI Land & Water Alternate Representative (Bob Thome)
 - a. Discussion and possible appointment of Alternate Representative
 - b. Shane stated he may have an LCC member interested in this position, but they are not able to be nominated at this time.
 - c. Tom stated that he will be discussing this at his LCC meeting this coming week.
 - d. Michele will also be discussing this at her LCC meeting in June.
 - e. This topic was tabled until the next meeting.
11. Resignation of North Central President (Jim Winkler) and WI Land & Water LCC Representative
 - a. Discussion and possible appointment of new President
 - i. **A motion to nominate Steve Kircher for President: Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, seconded by Shane Wucherpennig – Wood County.**
 1. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
 - b. Discussion and possible appointment of new LCC Representative
 - i. Kirstie would like to nominate Mike Ritter as the LCC representative. Mike is a member of their natural resources committee and serves as a County Board member. Mike is a very

passionate grazier that sells pastured beef in the area. He has a very deep land ethic, and is very interested in regenerative agriculture.

ii. A motion to nominate Mike Ritter as the LCC Representative: Shane Wucherpennig – Wood County, seconded by Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County.

1. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

12. County Updates

- a. Florence County
 - i. Scott Goodwin gave an update.
 - ii. Scott is now the County Conservationist in Florence County, and the Conservation Department is now separate from Zoning.
 - iii. There will be 9 new CBCW inspectors for this year.
 - iv. The Florence County AIS Coordinator starts soon, and is funded by the LMPN program.
 - v. A county-wide culvert survey is going to be completed this year. New GPS equipment will be used to complete this work.
 - vi. Several lakeshore practices are planned to be implemented through the cost-share program.
- b. Forest County
 - i. Steve Kircher gave an update.
 - ii. Received several grants to repair boat launches in the County.
 - iii. Starting some more nutrient management planning this fall.
- c. Langlade County
 - i. Chris Arrowood gave an update.
 - ii. Staff capacity does not reflect the work load of the County.
 - iii. Chris is talking with the Langlade County LCC about the potential of gaining additional staff. Potentially may have approximately 3.5 staff this coming June.
- d. Lincoln County
 - i. Tom Boisvert gave an update.
 - ii. A WAV training will be held this next Saturday. The hope is that this program will expand in future years.
 - iii. An AIS/CBCW training will be held in June. The goal of this training is to provide a chance for lake organizations to learn AIS and native species through live specimens. The CBCW training will be provided with this event as well.
 - iv. Cost-share projects planned for this year include: 9 well decommissioning's, 1 grazing project, 2 shoreline stabilizations, and 1 gutter/outlet project.
- e. Marathon County
 - i. Kirstie Heidenreich gave an update.
 - ii. WAV program is starting up this spring. Approximately 20 volunteers at this time. Jared Mader is taking the lead coordinator role of this program.
 - iii. Fenwood Creek project is going strong. Marathon County is hoping to reach their phosphorus reductions within the next year.
 - iv. Seeding the town ditches with perennial grass is project that Marathon County is working on to help reduce sediment/nutrient migration into nearby streams. Several towns need assistance with this effort and cost-sharing is likely to be involved.
- f. Oneida County
 - i. Michele Sadauskas gave an update.

- ii. Oneida County completed winter construction on three shoreline stabilization projects. Other shoreline projects anticipated to be completed by the end of June.
- iii. Stream crossing projects are continuing. Michele is working on getting some of the high priority crossings replaced with the local townships and WDNR.
- iv. Oneida County is hosting several community events regarding lakeshore restoration, native plantings, and light pollution this summer.

g. Portage County

- i. Tracy Arnold gave an update.
- ii. Wild parsnip – working on treating, mapping, etc.
- iii. Grazing projects are really starting to take off in the County.
- iv. Several Manure closure projects should be implemented this season.
- v. 16 healthy lakes and rivers projects are planned to be implemented this season.
- vi. Reviewing/updating several lake management plans.
- vii. They have three D.O. meters that citizens can use for the CLMN program, and they are being used frequently.
- viii. Tracy is now on the NMAC.

h. Vilas County

- i. Carolyn Scholl gave an update.
- ii. LMPN grant funding will allow for one AIS LTE for the summer season.
- iii. WAV trainings are occurring this spring.
- iv. Several healthy lakes and rivers projects going in.
- v. Some municipalities will be getting assistance in culvert surveys.
- vi. Still writing the protection/management plan for the Rice Creek watershed.
- vii. Talking with Trees for Tomorrow regarding a potential staff position that would be shared 50/50.
- viii. Will be starting to think about the LWRMP update that will occur in 2024.

i. Wood County

- i. Shane Wucherpfennig gave an update.
- ii. Wild parsnip – working on treating, mapping, etc.
- iii. Several grazing projects are going in this year.
- iv. ARPA funding proposals have not gained any traction.
- v. This is the fourth implementation year for the Mill Creek Watershed. So far this project has been very successful in nutrient reductions.

13. Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Report

- a. No report available.

14. Agency Reports

- a. Wisconsin Land & Water – Isabelle Paulson gave the update.
- b. County Conservation funding – there are some motions within the legislature to increase the base funding. Matt Krueger should be sending out an update regarding this.
- c. WI Land+Water merchandise sale will be coming out soon.

15. 2023 Calendar/Planning

- a. No changes

16. Summer Tour (Forest County)

- a. Friday, August 25th
- b. County Campground/Veterans Park

- c. Trolley ride to the Mole Lake Reservation to a fish hatchery
- d. Trolley ride to the Potawatomi Tribe to see their agricultural/aquaculture facilities.

17. Other Business

- a. Carolyn discussed Wake Boating and the conflicts associated with the vessels at this time.

18. Adjourn at 11:53 a.m.

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

Next meeting:

Friday, August 25th – Summer Tour (Hosted by Forest County)

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

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