



# NORTH CENTRAL AREA

## Land and Water Conservation Association

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

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Meeting Date: 5-4-2021

Meeting Location: Google Meet online, hosted by Lincoln Co

In attendance: Bob Mott-Oneida Co, Steve Kircher-Forest Co, Tracy Arnold-Portage Co, Scott Goodwin-Florence Co, Paul Daigle-Marathon Co, Gerry Zastrow-Portage Co, Tyrone Larson-NRCS, Ron Nye-Langlade Co, Shane Wucherpfenning-Wood Co, Jen McNelly-Portage Co, Patty Benedict-Portage Co, Bob Thome-Oneida Co, Chris Arrowood-Langlade Co, Rod Mayer-Wood Co, Michele Sadauskas-Oneida Co, Caleb Armstrong-Wood Co, Chris Schlutt-WI Land+Water, Klayton Kree-Wood Co, Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water, Mike Huth-Lincoln Co, Terry Kafka-WI DNR, Tony Reali-Calumet Co

Counties present: Forest, Florence, Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, and Wood

Counties not present: Vilas

1. Call meeting to order at 10:06am
2. Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions of those in attendance
3. Update from Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water
  - a. 2021-2023 binary budget is the focus currently. Joint finance hearings are complete, they are in the process of developing a new budget. Always a struggle with where funds should come from State or Federal.
  - b. WI Land+Water trying to get funding for County conservation but it's extremely important to contact your legislators. This will help gain funding for us. Explain why our work is important to their district, give them specific examples. Explain why the proposed increase is important and what we can accomplish with more funding.
    - a. Paul Daigle-Marathon Co provided testimony in Rhinelander to request funding for County staff.
  - c. Shane Wucherpfenning-Wood Co asked about the 13 water bills that stopped at Senate due to Covid-19. Where these bills bundled into the new proposal.
    - a. Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water stated no round 2 for the water quality task force. Some of the water bills will probably get put into the budget, some will be re-introduced as legislation, and it's going to come down to Legislative leadership and how much they want those bills to go through.
  - d. Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water stated WI Land+Water has been involved with the Dairy Business Assn, Nature Conservancy, Clean Wisconsin with shared goals of Clean Healthy Water and resilient farms. He shared a link to the budget blueprint. This is more of an FYI, working with non-traditional partners reaching across the table with high hopes to yield good results.

4. Amend agenda to approve minutes from January 28, 2021.
  - a. **Motion to approve minutes from January 28, 2021 made by Shane Wucherpfenning-Wood Co, seconded by Paul Daigle-Marathon Co**
  - b. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried. Mike Huth abstained from voting.**
5. Secretary's Report-Tracy Arnold, Portage Co
  - a. Tracy Arnold-Portage Co asked to make sure Counties keep Penny Pohle-WI Land+Water informed of new staff or supervisors as we use the North Central list serve to get information out to the Area.
  - b. Tracy Arnold-Portage Co asked if the January 28<sup>th</sup> minutes needed any edits. None needed.
    - a. **Motion to approve January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes made by Gerry Zastrow-Portage Co, seconded by Chris Arrowood-Langlade Co.**
    - b. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
6. Treasurer's Report-
  - a. No report because position is vacant.
  - b. Cassidy Neilitz took another position; Carolyn Scholl-Vilas Co is currently the interim treasurer, but we need to elect someone
  - c. Election of New Treasurer
    - a. Steve Kircher-Forest Co called for nominations, there were none
    - b. Paul Daigle-Marathon Co stated he would ask around his department to see if someone could step up and help.
    - c. **Motion made to table the election of a new treasurer till next meeting made by Shane Wucherpfenning-Wood Co, seconded by Scott Goodwin-Florence Co.**
    - d. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
7. President's report- Bob Mott-Oneida Co
  - a. Bob Mott-Oneida Co stated his update was basically same info as Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water presented.
8. Youth Education Update- Patty Benedict-Portage Co
  - a. Memo sent up regarding an update on all Youth Education programs.
  - b. North Central placed well at the State Poster and Speaking Contest, Annika Waltenberg-Portage Co placed 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Senior level speech contest and Preston Christianson-Portage Co placed 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the elementary level poster contest.
  - c. WI Envirothon was virtual went well, a lot of work but committee was very happy to try something new and it worked well.
  - d. Thank you to all counties for supporting the core youth education programs this year.
9. Scott Goodwin-Florence Co, Partial Match Funding Request for Shoreline Stabilization Guide publishing
  - a. Scott Goodwin-Florence Co explained where the Shoreland Stabilization Outreach Project document is in the process of getting printed.
  - b. Received a WI Land+Water grant to help with graphics in the document itself, also received a DNR grant to help with printing, Northwestern Area also helping with the cost of printing.
  - c. The team working on the document will also be asking other Areas for funding but currently they are looking for 25% of the printing cost.
  - d. Gerry Zastrow-Portage Co asked how many copies they were looking to print, Scott Goodwin-Florence Co stated 5,000.
  - e. Shoreland Stabilization Outreach Project document will be sent throughout the state to each County to use.
  - f. Tracy Arnold-Portage Co stated it was a very beneficial document and applauded everyone that

worked on it.

- g. Paul Daigle-Marathon Co said this project is a great way to use the current funds North Central Area has.

- a. **Motion made to fund up to 50% of the necessary amount (\$1,366.50 is half of the required in-kind) with the caveat that other areas will also be approached as well made by Paul Daigle-Marathon Co, seconded by Tracy Arnold-Portage Co.**

- b. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

#### 10. Chris Schlutt-WI Land+Water, PIC Update

- a. Chris Schlutt-WI Land+Water introduce herself and Tony Reali-Calumet Co, who is the chair of the PIC
- b. PIC is looking for additional members, both staff and supervisors. With representation all over the State the breakout sessions at the conference can come from many different angles and viewpoints.
- c. PIC meets 4-5 times a year. August is their main meeting in Point with the Tech Committee to plan the bulk of the conference.
- d. It's very important to have representation across the state.
- e. PIC is involved with the conference, moderating, registration, silent auction room, conference site selection, reaching out to presenters, raffle help, conservation awards, scholarship program, interagency training committee representative.
- f. Patty Benedict-Portage Co stated the Northern Counties need to have input to cover the issues/topics important to us.
- g. If you're interested in joining, reach out to Chris Schlutt-WI Land+Water or Tony Reali-Calumet Co.
- h. Bob Mott-Oneida Co said Lake Geneva was far, Chris explained the lengthy process of choosing the location. Not intended to hold the conference in Geneva again due to location and that a more centralized location is always the goal.

#### 11. County Updates

- a. Forest - Steve Kircher-Forest Co
  - a. In the process of hiring a new technician
  - b. Have several cost share projects lined up and ready to go.
  - c. High water is going down around the County, not as bad as last year.
- b. Florence - Scott Goodwin-Florence Co
  - a. Have a culvert replacement project ready to go, it had been postponed from last year.
  - b. Designs on shelf ready to go, so if you have extra funding, let them know.
  - c. Clean Boats, Clean Waters inspection sites are a go for this year.
- c. Lincoln – Mike Huth-Lincoln Co
  - a. Reorganization within their department, they are working through that.
  - b. Conservation Program Manager position posted.
  - c. Projects are ready to go and have completed a big shoreland project this spring.
- d. Langlade- Chris Arrowood-Langlade Co
  - a. Two positions filled, AIS position filled also.
  - b. Waiting list of projects for multiple years.
- e. Marathon - Paul Daigle-Marathon Co

- a. Reorganization within their department, they are working through that.
  - b. Funding still available for Soil Health position. A lot of the same work we do but it's another way to get work done. They are trained by NRCS, work with RC&D. They have been able to meet all the requirements so far. Paul Daigle-Marathon Co is very happy with how it's going so far.
- f. Oneida – Bob Mott-Oneida Co
- a. Dealing with a huge lake district issue/disagreement on Crescent Lake. Dealing with verification of signature and petitions.
  - b. Working on a manure storage ordinance
  - c. Working on wording for the word “vegetation” and what it means. Trying to clarify language so everyone is on the same page.
- g. Portage – Patty Benedict-Portage Co
- a. Two grants received from DNR. A Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant and a grant to purchase equipment to increase citizen data monitoring throughout the County. Two or three grazing projects and several Central Wisconsin Wind shed Partnership (CWWP) windbreak projects are planned.
  - b. Gerry Zastrow-Portage Co stated Wood, Marathon and Portage all passed a Clean Water Referendum with 75% in favor.
  - c. Committee made a motion to hire Clean Water Consultant to help resolve the nitrate issues. Central Sands also received a grant to research on the nitrate issues.
- h. Vilas – None
- i. Wood- Shane Wucherpfenning-Wood Co
- a. New technician on board, working on design work.
  - b. Working on TRIM 9 Key Element plan
  - c. No till drill is still very popular, adding a crimper/roller
  - d. Focus on soil health and nutrient management
  - e. Willing to host Summer tour if Area wants to come. Potential stops include large dairy with store, hydroponic operation, lunch at the Mead Wildlife Area, cranberry operations, wildlife deer fence, nonmetallic mine sites.
    - 1. Bob Mott-Oneida Co said dairy sounds interesting
    - 2. Michele Sadauskas-Oneida Co said Dairy and hydroponics sound like good stops
  - f. Potentially the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August, depending on the availability of tour stops.
12. Land & Water Conservation Board report- Bob Mott-Oneida Co
- a. Annual Conference exceeded expectations, a lot of work for staff but a huge success.
  - b. Working on updating forms and procedures, developing an associate membership for members that have moved on to different positions or retired but still want to be involved.
  - c. Working on diversity and inclusion, climate change and carbon sequestration.
  - d. Bob Mott-Oneida Co was on vacation in the Ozarks and it made him appreciate all the work conservation does to keep WI waters clean.
13. Agency Report
- a. WI Land+Water- Chris Schlutt-WI Land+Water
    - a. Please send staff/supervisor updates to Penny Pohle-WI Land+Water to keep the listservs, etc. accurate.
  - b. DATCP-none
  - c. NACD-none

- d. UWEX-none
  - e. DNR- Terry Kafka-WI DNR
    - a. TRM deadline was April 15<sup>th</sup>, DNR staff is reviewing applications currently.
    - b. The Public Comment period for the NR 151 Rule Changes for Nitrate ended on April 10, 2021. Draft Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) comments received are available for review on the DNR webpage: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/nonpoint/nr151nitrate.html>
  - f. FSA-none
  - g. NRCS- Tyrone Larson-NRCS
    - a. Thank you to everyone for helping with conservation programs throughout the State.
    - b. Deadlines are approaching, make sure to contact your local offices with questions.
    - c. Offices still closed to public, 50% staff capacity currently, hoping things will open soon.
14. Other business
- a. Bob Mott-Oneida Co asked about the tour next steps, Shane Wucherpfenning-Wood Co stated he will get information to the Area when he has additional information to share. Tentatively August 20<sup>th</sup>.
15. Adjourn at 11:43am
- a. **Motion to adjourn made by Bob Mott-Oneida Co., seconded by Shane Wucherpfenning-Wood Co**
  - b. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

Next meetings:

2021 Summer Tour & Meeting-Wood County host (August/September)

2022 Speaking/Poster Contest & Planning Meeting-Lincoln County host (January/February)

2022 Reorganizational/Spring Meeting-Oneida County host (May/June)

Host County			
	Planning Meeting January/February	Reorganizational/ Spring Meeting May/June	Summer tour/Meeting August/September
2020	LANGLADE-COMplete	MARATHON-COMplete	WOOD-POSTPONED TO 2021
2021	FOREST-COMplete	LINCOLN-COMplete	WOOD
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 ALPHABETICAL	REPEAT ORDER ALPHABETICAL

Minutes submitted by Tracy Arnold-Portage Co, NCLWCA Secretary 2021