



LAKE Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association

Chuck Wagner, President
Kewaunee County LCC
E1934 Co. Rd. S
Luxemburg, WI 54217
Phone: (920) 837-7712
Email: wagnerc@kewauneeeco.org

Erin Hanson, Vice -President
Door County SWCD
421 Nebraska St.
Sturgeon Bay WI 54235
Phone: (920) 746-2216
Email: ehanson@co.door.wi.us

Bart Schindel, Sec/Treas
Oconto County LWCC
235 S. Franklin St.
Oconto Falls, WI 54154
Phone: (920) 373-3696
Email: schindel@plbb.us

Ken Dolata, Area Coordinator
Oconto County LWCD
410 ½ E. Main Street
Lena, WI 54139
Phone: (920) 834-7152
Email: ken.dolata@co.oconto.wi.us

Board of Directors Virtual Spring Business Meeting Minutes May 7th, 2021

Members Present

Brown County 0-LCC, 1-Staff
Door County 5-LCC, 1-Staff
Kewaunee County 1-LCC, 1-Staff
Manitowoc County 0-LCC, 1-Staff
Marinette County 3-LCC, 2-Staff

Menominee County 0-LCC, 1-Staff
Oconto County 5-LCC, 1-Staff
Shawano County 1-LCC, 2-Staff
Sheboygan County 1-LCC, 1-Staff

1. Meeting called to order by Chuck Wagner, Kewaunee County 9:30 a.m.
2. Roll call (see Members present) Pauline Meyer, Representative to Congressman Mike Gallagher, Tony Reali, Calumet County, Travis Tulowitzky, Bayfield County and Penny Pohle, WI Land + Water.
3. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County, 2nd by Ken Fisher, Door County to approve the agenda. Carried.
4. Approval of January 8th 2021 BOD Minutes – Motion by Mary George, Shawano County, 2nd by Mike Mushinski, Brown County to approve the minutes. Carried.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Bart Schindel, Oconto County, reported as of May 7th, 2021 had a saving balance of \$745.18, checking balance of \$2,060.27, there are 4 outstanding poster winner checks totaling \$85.00 and Kewaunee, Marinette and Menominee Counties still owe dues. Motion by Buzz Kamke, Oconto County, 2nd by Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County to accept the treasure’s report. Carried.
6. WI Land + Water Conservation Association Reports: Board of Directors Representative, Committee Reports – Chuck Wagner, Kewaunee County, explained there have been several WI Land+Water Executive Board meetings in which they created a subcommittee to look into possible options for generating revenue with WI Land+Water funds.
7. Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve – presentation presented by Emily Tyner, Director of Fresh water Strategy UWGB – Emily Tyner presented on the process of applying for a National Estuarine Research Reserve for the Bay of Green Bay and the progress so far.

8. Wisconsin Budget Update – Ken Dolata, Oconto County and Chuck Wagner, Kewaunee County, discussed communications sent from Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water on the status of the state budget and to contact our representatives.
9. Professional Improvement Committee Report – Tony Reali, Calumet County, explained what the Professional Improvement Committee is charged with and anyone interested in serving on this committee is to contact him.
10. Northwestern Area Association Shoreline Publication – Travis Tulowitzky, Bayfield County, presented a joint Shoreline Restoration publication that was created by 10 counties, DNR and DATCP. Once approved they want to make the publication available electronically and they also want to have printed copies to be used around the state. They were looking for donations to help offset the required match for a WDNR grant for printing. Discussion was held and Jerry Halverson, Manitowoc County, made a motion to donate \$500 for printing to come out of the Lake Michigan's County Project budget line, 2nd by Ken Dolata, Oconto County. Carried.
11. Agency Updates/Reports – Ken Dolata, Oconto County, read report from Tyrone Larson, NRCS, which included updates on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program signup and that a 2nd signup deadline is June 18th. June 18th is also the application deadline for the new Conservation Incentive Contract Program, which NRCS staff will be receiving training on May 12th with a news release to follow. Conservation Stewardship Program "Classic" application are to be assessed and ranked by May 7th. A new fact sheet on changes to the Conservation Reserve Program was sent out.

Penny Pohle, WI Land+Water said they are working a new letter to go out next week and they hired an intern from UW Madison that is working approximately 10 hours a week and has been very helpful. In the next couple of weeks will be sending out a training survey and encourages everyone to take the survey.

Pauline Meyer, Representative to Congressman Mike Gallagher, discussed legislation that Congressman Gallagher has signed on to, namely GLRI and Land & Water Conservation Funds. Also discussed the recognition of the Demo Farm Networks in his area.

12. County Round Table- County Updates-

Brown County – discussed using satellite data to determine acres and locations of cover crop fields and no-till. NDTI and Landsat 7 provide data which can be used to accurately estimate acres and fields of cover crop plantings and no-till planting. Field evaluated and confirmed NDTI in Lower Fox starting when snow receded this spring. Can accurately determine Brown County had 15,000 acres of cover crops planted fall of 2020. The \$200 area conservation award was used to purchase seeds for their 2 hydroponic Fork Farm units. Fork Farm unit is used as a teaching tool here at the STEM building and all produce is donated to local food pantry which appreciates fresh produce.

Door County - Dunes Lake Restoration project will resume in August. In 2020 approximately 10 acres of open water were dredged, removing the top 2 feet of sediment/approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sediment. Three invasive species LTEs will focus primarily on monitoring and control of the county's priority species and early detection species in ecologically significant areas. A range of agricultural practices are

planned for installation in 2021 including cover crops, harvestable buffer, waterways, barnyard runoff controls, roofed manure storage, manure storage repair and abandonment.

Kewaunee County – Business as usual, been working on invasive species, construction season is in full swing and have received Coastal Management grants to conduct well testing.

Manitowoc County -Continue priority on education: fish fry tonight attended by 34 landowners in the Pine Creek watershed to have free fish and hear about the watershed and conservation practices. Will have booth at breakfast on the farm, County Fair booth in August for nitrate screening plus 3 other sites throughout the county for free nitrate screening.

-Facility Siting Licensing: Many dairy farms continuing to get bigger.

-Increase in subsurface tile drainage. Concern from neighbors downstream from outlet causing them more water on their property and concern for what is coming out of the tile .

-A number of farms interested in sending manure to a digester to capture methane gas then return a load of manure back to the farm.

-Increase demand for grassed waterways and WASCOP's.

-On sites taking place for FPP and facility siting license farms and continued meetings with operators and landowners in groundwater sensitive areas of the county.

Marinette County - NRDA Fish Passage Project- Project area is near Peshtigo and the Green Bay West Shores Area. This year we are going to be completing 3 culvert replacements as well as installing at least 2 small wetland scrapes on a property South of Hale School Rd and East of County Y Rd. We may be coordinating with the Town of Peshtigo on the Hale School Rd culvert site as they have plans to repave that section of road this year. The grant extends through end of 2023 to complete several other sites or others that may come up in inventory in the next two years if they take priority. We will also be completing a stream bank stabilization project at two sites on the Peshtigo River near the shooting range. Funders prefer to see bottomless culverts installed as well as rootwads or wood structures used for the streambank stabilization efforts.

Peshtigo Fish Viewing Platform- Chuck Druckrey, our Water Resource Specialist, installed new informational signage at the platform two weekends ago. He reported that there were cars lined up down the streets surrounding the area as many people were utilizing the platform to see the sturgeon coming in. Very cool to see it is being utilized!

Hiring two LTE staff in the next few weeks to work on AIS treatments and our Lake Monitoring and Protection Network grant. This project includes an AIS and signage inventory at all of our boat landings as well as a Clean Boats, Clean Waters event this year.

We were awarded a mini grant from the Great Lakes Committee to put together "Conservation Camp at Home" kits in lieu of offering our Sand Lake Conservation Camp this year. Anne Bartels, our Information and Education Specialist, is working on putting kits together with activities 6th-8th grade students can do in their own backyards or local public lands.

Menominee County - Discussed Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) and that we can set up a tour of the forest and possibly the mill in Neopit when we are to host. With all my years here, I have many good relationships within the Men. Tribe and MTE that allows us to work together on things like invasive species controls, to be county/reservation wide. We are starting on garlic mustard this week, then moving on to all the other species throughout the summer. We have had more interest in cost-share dollars lately as we've advertised it more. Instead of transferring money to other counties, we've been using our entire \$20k each year for shoreline protection and riparian buffer projects. We've already completed one shoreline restoration this season. With the new allocation of DNR surface water grant dollars, we have been able to increase the department technician position to full time, with the added AIS Coordinator duties. We received \$10,800 in 2021 for this.

Oconto County – Started the Demo Farm Network with Marinette County and Shawano County. Had a down year so far for the pike spawning, planning on several pike habitat projects this year. Explained up to 40 lakes in the county wide lake study. Construction has started and have several farm projects lined up for this year.

Shawano County - Has been quite active with Livestock Siting as well as Lake Monitoring Network activities. We celebrated the students who's posters went to state at a County Board meeting where they were recognized and received their prizes. It was a very good thing for our county. We also have started our FPP onsite.

Sheboygan County - Just finished hosting our department's annual tree sale. We had over 1,100 orders and over 89,000 trees sold. This summer we are starting to implement a five year project. The Milwaukee River Watershed Conservation Partnership (MRWCP) has received \$7 million in conservation incentives available to area landowners to support agricultural conservation practices throughout Milwaukee River Watershed. This incentive funding was made available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). We are looking to focus more of our conservation efforts within the Milwaukee River Watershed which covers about 1/3 of our County.

13. Adjourn - Motion by Clancy Whiting, Marinette County, 2nd by Mike Mushinski, Brown County to adjourn. Carried.