

SOUTHERN AREA ASSOCIATION
Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association

Southern Area Counties:

Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock & Sauk

President: Luke McGuire, Lafayette County
Vice President: Kurt Calkins, Columbia County
Secretary/Treasurer: Tess Wallner, Green County
Area Coordinator: Todd Jenson, Green County

March SAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 1st, 2023
Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept.

1. Meeting called to order by Kurt Calkins at 4:25pm
2. Roll Call of Counties: Columbia- 1 staff; Dane- 3 staff; Dodge- 1 staff 1 LCC; Grant- 3 staff; Green- 1 staff; Iowa- 1 staff; Jefferson- 0; Lafayette- 2 staff; Richland- 1 LCC member; Rock- 1 staff; Sauk- 1 staff and 1 LCC member.
3. Approval of Agenda: motion by Grant/ 2nd by Lafayette to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
4. October Minutes: motion by Dane/ 2nd by Dodge to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
5. Treasurers Report: motion by Grant/ 2nd by Rock to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.
6. Discussion on any possible resolutions:
 - Kurt Calkins explained what has been discussed in Legislative Admin meetings regarding changing bylaws to have a better structure for addressing concerns.
7. WI Land + Water updates: Local policy input process, State biennial budget priorities:
 - Matt Kreuger was present and said they are asking the state for \$18.7 million which would be a large increase from the current amount of \$11.3 million for Wisconsin county conservation. He feels many legislators are understanding of what we do and want to support our work. The main point Matt made was asking everyone to contact legislators to lobby for the budget increase. Specifically, Tony Kurtz, Joan Ballweg, Kelda Roys, Howard Marklein, and Mark Born.
8. Agency Updates: none
9. County Roundtable
 - Sauk: have \$120,000 in MDV funding, master plan for the county farm was submitted and they are looking at starting an education hub with a facility, a rain garden, and a community garden, they have new leases starting, and their online tree sale just closed successfully.
 - Rock: working on erosion control, stormwater permits, Norm Tadt and Duane Collins are retiring, Chris Murphy recently accepted a position with RES and will be leaving the county, Yahara Wins watershed group is working on adaptive management, they are hoping to improve credits for FPP, and was to do more nutrient management field reviews and implementation.

- Richland: Land Conservation and Zoning committees have been combined, they have a new hire, the office moved from the NRCS & DNR office to the courthouse, they've been doing more well testing, a climate resiliency group is starting
- Lafayette: office is moved now closer to the courthouse, updates were made to the manure storage ordinance, they've been having staff changeover in adjacent offices, working on implementing projects, and introducing harvestable buffer practices
- Iowa: TRM and Surface Water grant funding, \$100,000 from ATC, \$100k going towards recreation and \$100k going towards water tourism, doing more well and septic testing, hoping to increase communication through social media, newspaper, and radio, hiring new staff
- Green: Farmers of the Sugar River watershed group had their annual meeting recently with over 80 in attendance, the other new watershed group Green County Clean Waters received their first DATCP grant, Tonya has been working with Wisconsin Women in Conservation doing land walks and then writing conservation plans for those landowners
- Grant: a technician retired and another took a new position with NRCS so they have some new hires in the office and more coming, they will have funding coming from ATC though amount is yet to be determined, LWRM plan 5 year review is upcoming, busy with FPP and NWQI
- Dodge: LWRM plan has been approved, manure storage ordinance review is upcoming, they've been contributing to a USGS monitoring station on Rock River, also looking at expanding to social media and email newsletters, the Columbia Dodge Grazing Network has disbanded
- Dane: LWRM 5 year plan review was in February and timing was difficult with end/beginning of year annual reporting, hired Kim Meyer as agronomist for Demonstration Farms
- Columbia: increase in AEA longterm contracts from 6 to 12, existing AEA contracts were incentivized with SnapPlus 1 on 1 review with staff, solar farms community discussions are difficult without clear standards for procedure, WCA webinars are helpful

10. Next meeting date: will be determined by Todd Jenson at later date

11. Motion by Columbia/ 2nd by Lafayette to adjourn at 5:33pm. Motion carried.