



## Wisconsin's State Inter-Agency Training Committee

*SITCOM's Mission: To maintain and strengthen a statewide team of well-trained conservation professionals that carry on Wisconsin's rich history of conserving soil and water resources through a coordinated and efficient partnership.*

### Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 / 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Mimi Broeske, Stacy Dehne, Kevin Erb, Coreen Fallat, Pamela Fiorito, Karl Gesch, Matt Krueger, Kelli Neitzel, Dan O'Connell, Josh Odekirk, Josh O'Neil, Penny Pohle, Tony Reali, Chris Schlutt, Mike Stanek, Nate Walker, Matt Woodrow, Pete Wurzer, Drew Zelle

**Absent:** Steve Becker, Jenna Mertz, Emily Micolichcek, Jamie Patton, Pete Wurzer

**Approve December 8 minutes:** Minutes were approved by consensus.

Action: Penny will post minutes on SITCOM webpage

### Opportunities and/or Challenges

- **Sharing large files between agencies and WI Land+Water:** Coreen has tried many ways, likely a DATCP issue. DATCP can't use Box. Best success is SharePoint site. Mimi can't share with DATCP. Coreen can ask IT to help. If rest of committee can find solution, maybe they can get special permission for engineering section and Coreen. Penny and NRCS using WeTransfer. Drew uses Microsoft 360, sends person a One Drive folder and shares with specific email addresses. Coreen tried it but only worked with certain people. Michael has been asking people in other states – MN uses Box; agree with Coreen – see what works for others go from there; should be a priority.

Action: Michael to continue to work on, get group together to try different things.

- **COVID restrictions and impacts on in-person trainings:** Kevin – no restrictions, use common sense. Mimi – working on online curriculum, moving toward more in-person. DATCP – no restrictions, virtual encouraged. NRCS – less than 50 people, new guidance coming soon, travel/in-person needs approval. Supervisors in office, others telecommute – all transition back to office April 11, visitors allowed.

**Michael, Statewide Training Coordinator:** Michael is assessing current conservation landscape across WI and identifying opportunities for improved coordination. He will soon lead SITCOM and improve assistance to partner programs and stakeholders and develop a statewide conservation core competence curriculum and implementation plan. He'll start working on discussion workshops to move forward, followed by a strategy plan. Many questions – core competencies, website

development, mentorship program? Facilitator of important discussions, but we all need to be part of the team.

- Observations: many interviews; has gone through some current trainings, videos, and AgLearn courses; connected with other state programs (MN, OH, WA).
- Interview highlights: Current SITCOM developments are positive; the more partners agencies work together, the more effectively they can address the needs of stakeholders and landowners; development of SITCOM website would make connections easier; [add \$\$ in calendar if cost associated with training per Kevin]; staff turnover is a looming threat; current trainings offerings aren't aligned with needs of my area; need for basic knowledge in all areas of conservation; need for training in soft skills; need for consistency of training concepts and expectations, while considering unique features and needs of counties and agencies. Contact Michael if you need the link to a PDF with more shared responses.
- What's next? Meetings and interviews are ongoing; discussions on how to move forward; draft a strategy document; ratify strategy document; implementation; continue ongoing development, support, and agency coordination of training offerings.
- Michael asks that you fill out the survey that will help him get you involved in the discussions that matter most to you. Feel free to contact Michael. Can put in Survey Monkey to make more accessible if needed.

Comment: may want to delve into barriers to participating in trainings - most come from travel and cost, or those might not be interested in or able to spend a day at a non job-specific training.

### **Member Updates**

- **Mimi:** micro-irrigation 3-day training, bringing Michael in.
- **Stacy:** stream crossing training this fall; follow-up to webinar last Dec. touring lakeshore projects in May or June.
- **Drew:** canceled hydrology and hydraulics, catalog now up-to-date
- **Josh O'Neil:** no updates, will talk to Pete, Penny is here to help
- **Kelli:** planning to reach out in area, meeting on cap in attendees for more interaction, going on maternity leave. Significant discharge – maybe make more centrally located this fall, include nonpoint coordinator; one-on-one training for stream crossings.
- **Josh Odekirk:** wetland restoration planning April 21 (just confirming); advanced conservation planning field training – no date yet; Mike Isaacson to start as area engineer and new DATCP engineer, then will have a meeting, what they can add to list.

### **Feedback on 2021 SITCOM Annual Report**

Contact Penny with any feedback or any info for next year.

### **WI Land+Water training evaluations**

Please review. Glad to have access to webinars and recording afterwards.

## **Other business**

Justin White new SE DATCP engineer, from Marquette County.

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## **SITCOM Members and Representatives**

- AITCOM-#1-Northern/Park Falls - Stacy Dehne
- AITCOM-#2-NW/Altoona - Josh O'Neil and Pete Wurzer (comembers)
- AITCOM-#3-NE/Appleton - Drew Zelle
- AITCOM-#4-SW/Richland Center - Kelli Neitzel
- AITCOM-#5-SE/Juneau - Josh Odekirk
- Dept. Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection - Matt Woodrow, Coreen Fallat
- Dept. of Natural Resources - Karl Gesch, Nate Walker
- Natural Resources Conservation Service - Steve Becker, Pamela Fiorito, Mike Stanek (comembers)
- Professional Improvement Committee (PIC) - Tony Reali
- Technical Committee (TC) - Dan O'Connell
- UW-Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences - Mimi Broeske and Jamie Patton (comembers)
- UW-Madison Division of Ext. - Kevin Erb, Jenna Mertz
- WI Land+Water - Michael Hook, Isabelle Paulsen, Chris Schlutt
- Member at large, professional engineering practitioner - Emily Micolichek