



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, December 12, 2023 / 9:00-11:00 a.m.

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

- a. *Share your New Year's training and/or conservation resolution.*

2. Looking Back

- a. Approve September 12, 2023 Notes – No changes
- b. Training Evaluations, Highlights, and Shout-Outs

Evaluations: Kelli M – Held conversations and received feedback looking at post-training evals to ensure what we're sending out and information we're getting is really useful - short answer questions work best, look at ratings. Also ask questions in registration phase to get training expectations and info that would be useful to last-minute adjustments. Contact Kelli M if you have suggestions or put folks in contact with her. Extension has a post-training eval, they can help review and provide guidance.

Highlights: Pam – in Feb doing climate mitigation, tools, and marketing. Looking for venues around the state that hold 50+, want more resources (Area Resource Conservationists would work within NRCS policy). Pam to forward list of facility federal requirements, checklist. WI L+W previously started venue list, but not sure of current status. NRCS doesn't want to be list keeper. Identify no cost/low cost venues.

Action item – bring list of venues next meeting.

Shout-Outs:

- Grassland 2.0 retreat late Sept. was great, article in our upcoming newsletter.
- Andrea Topper and Jamie Patton reached out – what are some agronomy needs for county and NRCS staff. Webinar listening session held with breakout rooms with 30+ attendees and post-session survey with 90 responses. Let Michael know if you're interested in report. Reach out if you'd like WI L+W assistance in something similar.

3. Looking Forward

- a. Partner and AITCOM Training Updates (Member Updates)
 - i. *What's coming up that others should relay back to their agencies?*

Pete – general trainings coming up; next year concrete inspection (will share agenda and maybe make it a statewide training), livestock, pipelines, SM1 in the fall, something new will be rotating county tours of practices (and planning that goes into each one). Meeting this Thurs to finalize AITCOM catalog.

Stacy – Meeting in Nov, worked on budget and 2024 ideas – town/road stream crossing, field tour in spring [inaudible], priority for wetlands training. Seeking an expert on grants.gov. Michael to follow-up on that. Lost Ext rep; DNR, DOT liaison and USFS rep [are new??]

Drew – Michael shared his update

Justin – reformed AITCOM – good list of trainings: pipeline, construction checks, meeting Jan 9 to go over topics that will include tech tours, a few more technician meetings throughout the year, goal is streambank

planning/shoreline protection training (new standard, SW had training with Kelli N and NRCS); culture resource training.

Kelli N – has list of topics, need to gauge level of interest; expand on streambank training

NRCS – in conference season, internal training.

DATCP – EPA grant for wetland and hydrological restoration that will include several field trainings; direct runoff from feedlot training in support of WI L+W Technical Committee’s companion document; ATCP50 rule revision is with legislature and once that happens there’ll be need for trainings in new practices as well as policy-related trainings; are certification of compliance checks in the fields (Farmland Preservation) meeting ag perf standards?

Extension – cover crops/Discovery Farms conference merged – very successful; working with DNR on CAFO workshops and manure applicators (Feb and March) – CAFO NE location added in addition to GBay, and one in Tomah/Sparta

Dan M – NPM team in full gear for NM trainings, reach out and he can help. Virtual workshops - working with Andrea (one day).

Emily – Miller with NRCS with tech in NE [not clear on what she meant]

- b. AITCOM Fall/Winter Workplans and Training Catalog Updates
 - i. *Is there anything the areas need as they begin their Fall planning?*

Will financial assistance from L+W amount be raised due to inflation? Kelli has budget numbers and will send out 2024 numbers in near future.

4. SITCOM Workplan Development

- a. Statewide Priority Training Topics Update
 - i. Process on hold – what should we do moving forward?

Trainings through Needs Assessment: a lot were broad, 101-type trainings; may defer to task force. Topics are in Workplan Spreadsheet Michael sent out.

Kelli M – SITCOM newsletter – Peyton does most of work, moving forward with some updates on our website calendar, newsletter will then do more highlights; Constant Contact tracks most clicked-on items: featured training spotlight, on-demand trainings, and link to calendar – beef up top section to highlight 2-3 trainings. Year end wrap-up for last newsletter coming out Monday, will feature most popular trainings of the year. Let L+W know trainings that should be highlighted.

- b. Mentor Program Update
 - i. Pilot Applications and Initial Outreach
 - ii. Match Opportunities by Area (Mentor Program Newsletter)

Michael provides update. Kelli M shares newsletter that’ll go out, including “call-outs” by area to try and get more people involved in the program. Many are looking for peer groups/networks by area - more than one-on-one. Will also be in newsletter.

NRCS has an internal mentoring program, so may not see many staff in SITCOM program.

- c. New Task Force Membership
 - i. Conservation Training Standards and “Bootcamp” Series Proposal -

ii. AITCOM Support and Operational Guidance Review

Feelers not sent out yet for task forces above. Let Michael know if you're interested in participating in a way that works with your availability; great to have even a minimal amount of participation. Coreen interested in training/bootcamp task force.

d. Year in Review

i. *Do we feel like this year was a success?*

Beth – task force idea is great. Kelli N – Michael makes sure things get done in the meetings; success – starting program is hard, maintaining is harder, filling in gaps and expanding already (mentor program). Rotate meeting leaders [in task force?]. Coreen – big success, task forces provide opportunity for others to engage.

ii. *What changes or adjustments can we make to our strategy in 2024?*

Stacy – topic for 2024 statewide training out of top 10?

Increase in busy schedules, hard to have time, how can we make your time in this committee more beneficial? Keep meetings short, helps keep people informed across the state, give reports of training and info is good for whole group.

What would make it feel like a must attend meeting? Dan M - Needs Assessment oriented, how UW can support your needs (research, workshops, what can he bring back to NPM team or reach out to other specialists). Dan O – different teams has made meetings more valuable than a year ago.

Value in task forces, wants to see same value in full SITCOM meeting.

5. Future Plans

- a. 2024 Meeting Dates Survey – Michael sending out today to set dates
- b. Other Upcoming Events
 - i. 2024 Wisconsin Land+Water Annual Conference – March 6-8, 2024 at KI Convention Center, Green Bay. Registration opens Dec. 18.

SITCOM Members and Representatives

- AITCOM-#1-Northern/Park Falls - Stacy Dehne
- AITCOM-#2-NW/Altoona - Pete Wurzer
- AITCOM-#3-NE/Appleton - Drew Zelle
- AITCOM-#4-SW/Richland Center - Kelli Neitzel
- AITCOM-#5-SE/Juneau - Justin White
- Dept. Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection - Matt Woodrow, Coreen Fallat
- Dept. of Natural Resources - Karl Gesch, Thomas Pearce
- Natural Resources Conservation Service - Beth Peterson, Pamela Fiorito, Mike Stanek (co-members)
- Professional Improvement Committee (PIC) - Tony Reali
- Technical Committee (TC) - Dan O'Connell
- UW-Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences - Mimi Broeske and Dan Marzu (co-members)
- UW-Madison Division of Ext. - Kevin Erb
- WI Land+Water - Michael Hook, Kelli Myers, Chris Schlutt
- Member at large, professional engineering practitioner - Emily Micolichek