



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 Agenda (DRAFT)

Tuesday, March 19, 2023 / 1:00-3:00 p.m.

[Click Here to Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 843 5570 8820 Passcode: 269586

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions (members listed on pg.2)

- a. *Share a new challenge or project you're excited for in 2024*
 - i. Young Conservation Professionals network
 - ii. HECRAS being used at DATCP
 - iii. LCC handbook for new LCC training program
 - iv. Discussions and meetings with partner agencies
 - v. New agriculture educator at Calumet County
 - vi. New employee orientation workgroup at DNR
 - vii. Updating 5-year strategic plan
- b. New Member! Julia Mimier, DNR

2. Looking Back

- a. Approve December 12, 2023 Notes
- b. Training Evaluations, Highlights, and Shout-Outs
 - i. Kristin Foehringer coordinated a climate smart mitigation workshop series and had instructors from the NRCS national offices come to Wisconsin to put it on
 - ii. DNR CAFO program hosted a series of animal feeding projects
 - iii. Southeast area had a recent tech update and grazing training
- c. 2024 Wisconsin Land+Water Annual Conference

3. Looking Forward

- a. Partner and AITCOM Training Updates (Member Updates)
 - i. *What's coming up that others should relay back to their agencies?*
 1. DNR – Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, DNR is putting on a on recent water quality tools for lake planning (Apr. 10), “usual” spring trainings are webinars for nonpoint source grant programs that DNR offers and this year instead of live training via a webinar, they are moving to recorded videos that can be accessed on demand.
 - a. <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/agenda/workshops/>
 - b. On demand recorded DNR nonpoint source grants trainings: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/TargetedRunoff.html> and <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/UrbanNonpoint.html> See “applying” and “resources” tab
 2. NRCS – Southeast area trainings working with DATCP, but mostly internal trainings going on right now
 3. DATCP – Southeast area have a number of trainings this Spring: CAD training, construction inspection training, advanced conservation planning; Southwest

area: cultural resources for projects, geotextile and filter design on May 22nd, working on some recordings, construction inspection planning; North: focused on stream-crossings at the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024 (targeted town and municipal road crews in addition to area technicians), working on a tour on April 16th, working on another tour in Vilas County with Trout Unlimited and Forest Service (DNR), planning wetlands and permitting training with DNR, want to train county staff and zoning to work with landowners in these topics, working effectively with tribal partners (could be a statewide effort?); Northeast: two-stage ditch training, May NR151 runoff evaluation and compliance; Northwest: concrete inspection, livestock pipeline; Statewide: hydrologic restoration field visits for conservation partners targeting counties in the 5 DATCP regions in Summer/Fall

- a. Larger DNR permitting training is possibly moving forward (E-permitting training) Working through the system and understanding the ins and outs of the e-permitting process. Might look at doing another presentation on general permitting requirements (if I have a site that looked like this, these are permits you might want to look at).
 - b. Coreen - tribal partner topic would be a great one for next year's conference
4. Technical Committee meeting on Thursday at 9:00am: navigability, etc.
 5. Professional Improvement Committee: Lake Winnebago Area and Lake Michigan Area joint meeting on June 7th for LCC training
 6. Stormwater Workshop on April 3rd and 4th, already at 100 registrants!
 7. UW-Ext.: English/Spanish training for manure applicators, attempting to recruit farmers in each township to report precipitation will be hosting the data through the National Weather Service
 8. DATCP, Randy Zogbaum's soil health training:
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SoilHealthTraining.aspx
- ii. Statewide Training Topic Ideas: DNR E-permitting process, general permitting requirements, working with tribal partners (frequency, when you should reach out, or how to know that you need to connect and work with them)
- b. AITCOM 2024 Workplans and Training Catalog Updates
 - i. *Is there anything the areas need as they begin their 2024 planning?*

4. SITCOM Workplan Development

- a. Mentor Program Update
 - i. Initial pilot program matches
 - ii. Challenges with applications and match process
 - iii. Young Conservation Professionals Network
 - iv. Leadership Academy for Conservation Professionals proposal
 1. Julia Mimier
- b. New Charge from Partner Agency Leadership
 - i. "Big Questions"
 1. What makes a well-trained conservation professional?
 2. What makes for an effective conservation training environment?
 3. What makes an effective conservation trainer?
 4. How do we retain staff through training efforts?
 - a. What can we do to look at job satisfaction, training people in a way that makes people want to stay. How can SITCOM help with retention in agencies across the state?

5. Who is our target audience/how do we cross all these boundaries – do we target specific groups and audience or do we hit a broader audience
 - ii. Committee Membership Evaluation
 1. Interest and passion for exploring “big questions”
 2. Agency positioning to enact or encourage changes
 3. Experience, interest, background, or position in training or education
 - iii. AITCOM support and coordination
- c. Planning for 2024
 - i. Conservation Partnership Training (new employee training)
 - ii. In-person meeting for 2024
 - iii. Task force ideas

5. Future Plans

- a. Tribal partners task force potentially?
- b. AITCOM support enhancement
- c. Stacy - sometimes we spend time tailoring our training to a particular audience and it gets to be more challenging when we start targeting other areas. We’re all in this together and we’re trying to train a professional, who is that professional? Instead of trying to meet everyone’s needs all at once - approach this in pieces.
- d. Where is the balance between “statewide training” vs very specific audiences

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, Julia Mimier
- 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