



## Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

121 S. Pinckney Street, Suite 420 · Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
(608) 441-2677 · Fax: (608) 441-2676 · wisconsinlandwater.org

### Youth Education Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 26, 2022, **Time:** 10:00 to 12:30 **Location:** Portage County Annex/Zoom  
(Portage County Annex, 1462 Strongs Ave, Stevens Point)

**PC/Laptop/Tablet/Smart Phone:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84327029125?pwd=dFVLeINndUdZeldBbVpFVWIFcnY3Zz09>

**Phone Dial-in:** 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) **Meeting ID:** 851 1841 7723 **Passcode:** 673311

**Youth Education Mission:** Develop and maintain county and statewide Wisconsin Land+Water (WI Land+Water) programs that educate and inspire Wisconsin’s youth on the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources.

| Committee Members                                  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Arnold   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Egner     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justine Bula      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Burns      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah McDowell            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Steckelberg   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Boismenu           | <input type="checkbox"/> Anne Bartels               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patty Benedict | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aleisha Miller      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Saykally     | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Palmquist          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zach Wilson               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karyn Eckert        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Higley  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Wichman   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary George    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Kircher       | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna James                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Allness (NRCS)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cassie Kohls              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirstie Heidenreich | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John White (NRCS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Nasgovitz |
| WI Land+Water Staff Liaison (non-voting)           |   |   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Warkentin  |   |   |   |

WI Land+Water meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person, via conference phone, or via web conference if desired. Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair. Please inform your chair if you cannot attend.

### ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE

- I. **Call to order:** Arnold (chair) at 10:05 a.m.
  - a. **Introductions/Roll Call (Bula)**
  - b. **Adopt agenda/additions**
    - i. Motion - Megan Steckelberg

- ii. Second - Patty
- iii. Motion Carried
- c. **Approve previous meeting minutes (09/14/2021)**
  - i. Update the date for the previous meeting notes to 8/8/2022.
  - ii. Review of the 8/8/2022 meeting notes tabled until the next Youth Education Committee meeting.

## II. Elections – Kim Warkentin, WI Land +Water

### a. Elections will be held every two years.

### b. Chair:

i. **Job description:** responsibilities include working jointly with Kim Warkentin to create agendas for the Youth Education committee meetings and subcommittee meetings. Serve on Youth Education subcommittees. Send out all agendas and meeting notes to committee members. Run committee meetings. Assist with the management of the [Youth Education Facebook page](#). Work jointly with Kim Warkentin to oversee all Youth Education programs including summer camps, presentations, and the annual state conference session. Answer questions on Youth Education programs and projects.

### ii. Nominations:

- Megan Steckelberg nominated Tracy Arnold.
- Karyn Eckert moved to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Tracy Arnold. All in favor.
- Tracy Arnold accepted role of chair.

### c. Vice-Chair:

i. **Job description:** Assist and work with Youth Education chair and Kim Warkentin on organizing meetings. Update documents for the poster and speaking contests. Work with area reps to get information on programs out to counties. Assist with the management of the Youth Education Facebook page.

### ii. Nominations:

- Megan Steckelberg nominated by Karen Eckert.
- Mary George moved to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Megan Steckelberg. All in favor.
- Megan Steckelberg accepted role of vice chair.

### d. Secretary:

i. **Job description:** Conduct roll call and record minutes for the Youth Education committee meetings as well as for some of the subcommittee meetings.

### ii. Nominations:

- Justine Bula nominated by Stephanie Egner.
- Patty Benedict moved to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Justine Bula. All in favor.
- Justine Bula accepted role of secretary.

## III. Youth Education Area Reps

- a. **Northwestern-Lisa Burns, Washburn Co.:** The date for the area contest has not been

- finalized. Lisa Burns will continue to serve as area rep.
- b. West Central-Aleisha Miller, St. Croix Co.:** The area contest is set for Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. There are 3 counties that will be participating from the area at this time. Aleisha Miller will continue to serve as area rep.
  - c. Western- Sarah McDowell, Vernon Co.:** No one from the Western Area was present at meeting. Discussion on reaching out to contact Haley from Trempealeau Co. or Dustin Ladd and Sarah Fleck from Juneau Co. to see if they would be able to participate for the area as well.
  - d. Southern-Justine Bula, Sauk Co.:** The area poster contest is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> and area speaking contest is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. All contest materials for the area are due by Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. At this time there are 4 counties participating in the poster contest and potentially 3 counties that will participate in the speaking contest. Justine Bula will continue to serve as rep.
  - e. Southeastern-Stephanie Egner-Washington Co.:** The date for the area contest has not been finalized. There are currently 3 counties that are likely to participate in the poster contest. Directing participating counties to participate in contact Tracy directly with their local contest dates. Discussion on potentially reaching out to Racine and Walworth Co. to try to increase participation in area. Stephanie Egner will continue to serve as area rep.
  - f. Lake Winnebago-Megan Steckelberg, Adams Co.:** The area poster contest is scheduled for Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The due date for area contest is Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 4 counties that plan to participate in the poster contest. There will likely be 1 participant for the speaking contest. Megan Steckelberg will continue to serve as area rep.
  - g. Lake Michigan-Mary George, Shawano Co.:** The area poster contest is scheduled for Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 4 counties that plan to participate in the poster contest. Welcome to Megan Nasgovitz from Sheboygan Co. who has joined the Youth Education committee. Mary George will continue to serve as area rep.
  - h. North Central-Patty Benedict, Portage Co.:** The area poster contest is scheduled for Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> in Wausau. There are currently 7 out of the 9 counties in the area that plan to participate in the poster contest. Participation in the speaking contest is not confirmed at this time. Patty Benedict will continue to serve as area rep.

#### IV. Conservation Camps

- a. Middle School Camp, Upham Woods, Baraboo – Kim Warkentin, WI Land +Water**
  - i. Tentative: June 14 – 17, 2023:** The 2023 Middle School Camp dates are confirmed for June 14-17 at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center, Wisconsin Dells.
  - ii. Volunteers:** There were 4 men counselors and 7 women counselors for 2022. It was noted that there was a need for additional counselors, especially male counselors for camp to meet ratio requirements for staff to students. If there are not sufficient counselors, for both men and women, students will have to be turned away to meet required staff ratios. It was difficult to find enough volunteers for the camp this summer, however there are hopes that since the camp is now run by WI Land + Water and not Marionette County, that it will be easier for staff from other counties to participate. Kim followed up with Melissa Schlupp from Sauk County on working to expand local participation for future programs.
  - iii. Other Middle School Camp Discussion:**
    - The June 15-18, 2022, Middle School Camp had 65 middle school

students in attendance of the 68 that registered.

- Following the camp debrief with Upham Woods, it was noted that Upham Woods would like the camp to increase the number of students to 85 moving forward and increase number of counselors for camp as well.
- Parents and students were excited to be back at camp.
- The next middle school camp meeting is scheduled for December. Discussion will be focused on needs for volunteers and camp planning.

**b. High School Camp, North Lakeland Discover Center, Manitowish Waters – Tracy Arnold, Portage County**

**i. June 19 – 20, 2023** → Dates have been confirmed at the North Lakeland Discovery Center.

**ii. Other High School Camp Discussion:**

- The June 20-23, 2022, High School Camp had 16 high school students in attendance. For 2022, there were 3 male counselors and 2 female counselors.
- It was noted that there were concerns about COVID-19 and the cabin sleeping situation going into camp. The decision was made to require campers to provide copies of their COVID-19 vaccination cards with their camp registration forms. Additionally, all campers and staff conducted COVID-19 tests at drop off before entering the camp with additional testing on Tuesday at camp. There were no complaints about the COVID-19 protocol and requirements for camp.
- Challenges with weather and the extreme heat changed the original schedule for camp and instead shifted to a focus on kids' choice for activities. Activities included a Lake Superior trip, meeting with fisheries biologist and a sturgeon that they caught. Overall camp went really well, and students had a great time.
- The cabins at the North Lakeland Discovery Center have been remodeled this past year and improvements continue to the site.

**c. Camp Nurses**

**i.** For the 2022 camps, an area nurse volunteer for the high school camp and Karyn Eckert served as the medical personnel for the middle school camp. Discussion on reaching out to local public health departments to help find a nurse to volunteer for camps.

**d. Camp Volunteers**

**i.** It was suggested to create a commercial to share at the annual conference in March for camp counselor volunteer recruitment. Karyn Eckert noted that the volunteer recruitment efforts will be focused early on in the planning process for the camps and the goal is to have a majority of volunteers confirmed before the March conference but this would be a great opportunity to fill any remaining volunteer roles that are needed. Area reps should work to promote volunteering as a counselor at any area meetings.

**e. Camp Scholarships**

**i.** For the 2022 camps, a total of 17 camp scholarships were provided to students. This included all Brad Matson Memorial Conservation Camp Scholarship, local County Scholarships, and a Green Bay school that also offered scholarships.

- ii. For 2023 the Wi Land + Water intern will reach out to counties and work to get county scholarship information posted on the Wi Land + Water website for the camps. Stephanie Egner offered to assist in getting that information organized, promoted and posted.
- iii. Discussion on working to streamline scholarship setup between counties and Wi Land + Water. Kim noted that it is easier if Wi Land + Water does not have to invoice the county. For counties offering scholarships, check to see if it is possible to avoid invoices or split invoices from Wi Land + Water and offer reimbursement to camp participants for their scholarships rather than having WI Land + Water invoice the county for the scholarship amount.

**V. Silent Auction - Megan Steckelberg-Adams Co/Kim Warkentin-WI Land + Water**

- a. **Planning for 2023:** Discussion on keeping auction virtual. Megan has looked into having some items only online and some in person, it looks like it needs to be all online or all in person. The current plan for 2023 is to host auction online but with all items in person at the conference for pick up. A QR code will be created so participants can simply scan the code using the photo function on their phones to enter the auction and bid online. By hosting the auction online, this will allow people who are not at the conference to bid and participate. The only items that will have shipping available as an option will be paper (gift cards). Discussion on the concerns of possibility of people that are participating in the online auction, but not present in person at the conference, winning an auction item and figuring out the logistics for getting the items to the winners. It was suggested that area reps. can assist with the returning of items to an area if won and paid for online but an individual is not present to pick up. Area reps would check in with Kim to collect any posters and auction items that might be left and return those to the general area for pick-up. Additional discussion on setup and details for silent auction will be discussed at the silent auction meeting. which will be held directly following the Youth Education Committee meeting.
- b. **Ideas for items:** Silent auction items could include items such as maple syrup, fishing trips, craft beer, potatoes, Kringle, boat tours, local crafts, local produce, camping trips, park passes
- c. **Mention at Area meetings:** Reminder to promote the silent auction at area meetings.
- d. **Silent Auction Committee Meeting directly after Youth Education Meeting.**

**VI. WI Envirothon**

- a. **Friday, April 21st at the Central WI Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI:** The Lions Camp continues to be great to work with for Envirothon. Kim has the contract with the Lions Camp setup for an all in person Envirothon.
  - i. For 2022 Envirothon, was held in a hybrid format, with current issue presentations presented via zoom and field stations in person. The volunteer numbers were limited due to COVID concerns. Feedback from schools is that they would like to be back in person with overnight stays for 2023 event.
- b. **2023 Current Issue “Adapting to a Changing Climate”:** Nationals will be held in New Brunswick, Canada. Station captains will write the test for 2023. Tracy Arnold will reach out to previous station captains to see if they will participate again this year. Previous station captains: Wildlife – Anne Bartels; Soils – Sharon Brock or Jamie Patton; Aquatic – Paul Skawinski or Jen McNelly; Forestry – Fritz Schubert, John Hintz, and Steve Grant.
- c. **County sponsorships (\$55):** In 2022, a total of 44 counties provided sponsorship with around

\$2,555.00. Counties are welcome to sponsor for more than the \$55.00, areas are also able to sponsor Envirothon as well. There are some areas that are sponsoring for larger amounts of around \$200 - \$300. Please try to encourage your county and area to sponsor the program if possible.

- d. **Brainstorm additional donors:** Work with groups and organizations that are related to the current issue theme. For the 2022 competition, donors and judges were recruited from local recycling groups in the area since the theme was “Waste to Resources”. This generated a lot of interest and participation. Ideas on donors for 2023 include the [Will Steger Foundation](#), a non-profit based out of Minneapolis, MN that is focused on climate change, literacy, and action.
- e. **Volunteers:** The Envirothon subcommittee is looking for participants to assist in the planning, organization, and implementation of the Envirothon program. There will also be a need for more volunteers for the program this year since it will all be back in person.
- f. **Other discussion on Envirothon:**
  - i. **Brochures and promotion:** the brochures should be available later this year, around December. The old brochures are available on the website and can be used, as the information is the same, the dates and theme just need to be updated. Justine Bula volunteered to assist with setting up a save the date flyer for Envirothon.
  - ii. **Limits on number of participating teams:** The maximum number of teams that can participate in Wi Envirothon currently is 25 teams, based on scheduling constraints. We would need to add another judging room for group presentations or would have to limit/turn teams away from participating. Group agreed that it would be preferred to add an additional judging room rather than have to turn teams away, if there is a year with greater than 25 teams participating. It was noted that the FFA began using the Wi Envirothon as their official contest, so hopefully there will be an increase in participation once things are back in person.
  - iii. **Cost for Envirothon:** The cost is \$140/team plus lodging. There is a minimum of 4 students to participate and maximum of 5 students per team.

## VII. Poster and Speaking Contest

- a. **Poster Logo/Theme:** There have been a lot of questions on this theme from teachers. There is not a lot of enthusiasm towards this theme and logo. Justine Bula is focusing on watershed and water cycle lessons and using some of the resources from the 2018 NACD Contest, “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home”. Megan Steckelberg heard back from Nationals when asked about clarification on the theme. Response from NACD: *“The “One Water” theme focuses on the idea that waterways are connected throughout the watersheds and regardless of whether they are upstream, downstream, or on the coast.”*
  - i. **Lessons and Resource Ideas:**
    - [Drop in the Bucket](#) lesson with Portage Co.
    - [Amazing Journey](#) water cycle lesson
    - [Enviroscape Model](#)
    - [Crumple Paper Watershed](#) models and lesson
- b. **Forms:** The fillable entry forms for both speaking and poster contest are posted on Wi Land + Water website. All templates for judging and local and area contests are posted. The tip sheet and forms to submit local winners to area and area winners to state forms are not posted and available yet but should be in the coming weeks.

- i. [Turn-key Packet](#) includes everything you need to know on how to setup and organize a poster and/or speaking contest at the local level. If you have questions on getting a contest started this is a great resource to start with. Reminder for Area reps, to send out link to turn-key packet with poster and speaking contest information.
- c. **Local/Area Contest:** Local and Area contests should be hosted however works best for local and area (in person or virtual), please just note that state contest is in person.
- d. **Area winners due by Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**
- e. **State Contest, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Chula Vista in the Wisconsin Dells**
  - i. The contest will be in person and all posters are needed by day before, Tuesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, the contest to setup the posters. Area reps will be responsible for getting posters to state contest. Information on where to send or deliver posters. If anyone is able to assist with setup the night before, that would be appreciated.

#### VIII. Conference Breakout session:

- a. The Youth Education breakout session for the 2022 conference was canceled after the conference was rescheduled to a virtual event and the schedule changed. We can use the same topic, “Next Generation of Boots on the Ground: Emerging Conservationists”, from the 2022 conference for the 2023 breakout session. This session will be all about how to organize and run field days for youth and will include a panel of 4 staff from Outagamie, Shawano, Adams, and St. Croix counties. The session is planned to be 1 hour and 15 minutes from 9:45 – 11:00 am on Thursday. Tracy Arnold suggested doing a short 15-minute Youth Ed. program overview at the beginning of the session to promote the Youth Ed. programs and committee. John White noted that it would be great to include a county that has close partnership and participation from their local NRCS office. Megan Steckelberg mentioned that they usually work with NRCS and have NRCS lead a station. The information for the breakout sessions are due to Chris Schlutt by the end of October.

#### IX. Additional topics/projects/concerns

- a. **Joining Subcommittees:** We need to expand participation in the subcommittees as this is where the majority of the work to make the Youth Ed. programs possible happens. Everyone on the YE committee needs to be on at least one subcommittee. The agendas for subcommittee meetings will be sent out the entire Youth Education Committee.
  - i. Subcommittees include: 1.) Poster & Speaking; 2.) Envirothon; 3.) MS Camp; 4.) HS Camp; 5.) Silent Auction; 6.) Area Representative
- b. **Social Media:** Wi Land + Water intern and Megan Steckelberg will assist Tracy Arnold and Kim Warkentin in managing the [Wi Land + Water Youth Education Facebook page](#). If you have programs or posts related to Youth Ed. programs from your county or Area, please send a notice to Tracy Arnold, Megan Steckelberg or the Wi Land + Water Intern so that they can share and promote events and projects for local programs on the Youth Education Facebook page.

#### X. Next Meeting

- a. A doodle poll will be sent out to schedule next meeting in mid-January, meeting will be virtual.

#### XI. Adjourn (12:15 pm)

- a. Motion - Patty Benedict
- b. Second - Karyn
- c. Motion carried.

**Area Rep Meeting** right after Youth Education:

**Silent Auction Committee Meeting** right after Area Rep Meeting