



**Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association**

121 S. Pinckney Street, Suite 420 • Madison, WI 53703  
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**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Dec 14, 2023    **Time:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**HYBRID MEETING:**

**In-person:** Village of Rib Mountain City Hall, 227800 Snowbird Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

**Zoom link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83236130025?pwd=TVVCdW1TWkljaTBHY0RISDUrNIZIUT09>

**Zoom call-in:** 1-312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 832 3613 0025; Passcode: 786917

Board Members			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monte Osterman (Chair), Racine Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Micheel (Vice-Chair), Monroe Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Piaget (Treasurer), Dane Co. LWRD	<input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Scholl (Secretary), Vilas Co. LWCD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Gerhardt, Clark Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Luck, Richland Co. LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Frank, Shawano Co. LCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Mandli, Marinette Co. LCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Haase, Waupaca Co. LWCD	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Hofberger, Calumet Co. LWCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marissa Castello, Waukesha Co. LRD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Henry, Vernon Co. LCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chase Cummings, Dunn Co. LWCD	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Dufford, Bayfield Co. LWCD	<input type="checkbox"/> Craig Conroy, Burnett Co. NRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Ritter, Marathon Co. ERC
Advisors (Non-Voting)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Anderson, DATCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Shannon Haydin, DNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Clayton, DNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh Odekirk, NRCS
<input type="checkbox"/> Beth Mason, NACD	<input type="checkbox"/> Coreen Fallat, DATCP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Zerr, UW-Madison Division of Extension	
WI Land+Water Staff (Non-Voting)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Krueger	<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.*

**Board alternates in attendance:** Jodi Schappe (Adams), MaryJo Gingras (Ashland), Tracy Arnold (Portage). **Alternate advisors in attendance:** Eric Allness (NRCS)

## ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE

- 1) Called to order at 9:35 AM by Chair Monte Osterman
  - a. Roll call – adopt agenda
    - i. Motion to approve Gerhardt, second Micheel, unanimously approved.
  - b. Approve previous meeting minutes – Oct 19, 2023
    - i. Motion to approve Piaget, second Micheel. All voted aye.
- 2) Organizational Audit Review – Treasurer Amy Piaget, Exec. Director Matt Krueger, Wegner CPAs (Eric Armenta/Mike Hablewitz)
  - a. Audit review does not issue recommendations/opinions as a full audit does. Wegner CPAs Conclusion: it is not aware of any material modifications that need to be made to our accounting.
  - b. Discussion about new “right of use assets” accounting; larger amounts of grant receivables in 2022 vs 2021; organization’s very strong financials, with about 2/3 of a year in reserve in unrestricted funds.
  - c. Motion to approve audit review report by Frank, second by Ritter. All voted aye.
- 3) 2024-28 Draft Strategic Plan – Krueger, Strategic Planning Committee
  - a. Discussion about the plan, with board members expressing their pleasure in the effort and product that was put forth; board consensus for a letter be sent to Jen Wilson at New Leaf Consulting expressing our gratitude, which Krueger stated he would do.
  - b. Motion to approve five-year strategic plan by Piaget, second by Cummings. All voted aye.
- 4) 2024 Draft WI Land+Water Operating Budget – Piaget, Krueger
  - a. Budget highlights:
    - i. Total FY 2024 income of \$1,155,721.92 is \$170,896.67 or 17.4% more than FY 2023 budgeted income of \$984,825.25. Total FY 2024 expense of \$1,155,721.92 is \$160,892.10 or 16.4% more than FY 2023 budgeted expense of \$994,829.82. Bottom line reflects a FY 2024 balanced budget.
    - ii. Projected income is up via event registrations and membership dues, keeping up with increased costs after holding event costs steady for a few years.
    - iii. Contract income is up from 2023. Indicates good support for our work through our agency and foundation partners.
    - iv. Staffing changes to enhance capacity:
      1. New Financial/Admin position – 0.5 FTE
      2. New Climate Resilience Program Specialist – FTE position to help with agroforestry training, climate resilience planning with landowners
      3. CR Prog Manager elevated to Assoc. Director position, retaining some Climate Resilience Program duties, managing new staff.
      4. Operations Manager (currently 0.5 FTE operations mgr and 0.5 FTE Youth Education Prog Director) shifting to mostly YE Prog duties, retaining some office mgr duties.
  - b. Motion to approve budget by Frank, second by Mandli. All voted aye.
- 5) Event Code of Conduct Policy – Krueger

- a. This is consistent with how other events at the scale of our conference operate. Will demonstrate our commitment to professionalism and provides us something to point to in the event incidents of unprofessional conduct arise.
  - b. Motion to approve by Gerhardt, second by Ritter. All voted aye.
- 6) 2023 Q3 Financial Reports – Piaget, Krueger
- a. Profit & Loss Budget Performance – numbers are where we'd expect them to be at this point; still working on some formatting of reporting to compare like-for-like actuals vs. budget, on a quarterly basis.
  - b. Motion to approve by Gerhardt, second by Micheel. All voted aye.
- 7) Staff Presentation – Kelli Myers, Conservation Training & Membership Services Manager
- a. Meyers introduced herself, stating she is from Iowa, graduated from Ripon College and has been in Wisconsin the past 10 years. She expressed her passion for the environment, described her early impressions of her work with WI Land+Water and is excited for the work ahead.
- 8) Executive Director's Report – Krueger
- a. Conference sponsorships – board members can help make connections to potential sponsors that you have relationships with. Krueger will send a list of sponsors from last two conferences, for BOD members to review. New contract with NRCS, supporting our conference and conference planning efforts; will be at the highest level of conference sponsorships for the next three years, and have committed to “line officer” meetings ahead of our conference.
  - b. 2024 Annual Conference registration goes live next week. Dan Egan will be our keynote speaker. Warkentin noted the raffle will be all cash prizes again this year and she has packets of raffle tickets for board members to take back with them to their areas as they cannot be mailed.
  - c. Annual awards are another impactful way BOD members can contribute. Nominate someone from your county, your area, or elsewhere for an award. Deadline is Dec. 31. Krueger will send out the awards announcement.
  - d. Legislative updates/engagement
    - i. Act 42 – Farmland Preservation Program improvements signed into law after two previous legislative attempts. We were instrumental in getting this bill done!
    - ii. Krueger was invited and attended a Sen. Baldwin gathering at Savanna Institute in early Nov that included a roundtable discussion on IRA funding and other ag/conservation issues of concern.
    - iii. On behalf of WI Land+Water, Chase Cummings attended an EPA Region 5 roundtable event in Eau Claire County held by EPA Administrator Regan.
- 9) Advisor Reports
- a. NRCS (Eric Allness)
    - i. State Conservationist posting will occur in January...permanent by June, if possible? Josh Odekirk is currently the acting State Conservationist.
    - ii. Eric Allness is taking a position in mid-January in Kentucky; Ryan Gerlich will be acting in Allness' current position, which will be posted in January.
    - iii. Farm Bill was extended under continuing resolution through Sept. 2024.

- iv. FY 2024, Wisconsin NRCS looking at 50% increase in financial assistance in EQIP. In 2023, obligated \$37M, looking at up to \$50M in 2024. NRCS only typically obligates about 40% of EQIP requests, so demand is expected to keep up.
- v. Allness expressed his appreciation of the umbrella type agreement with WI Land+Water which allows them to be flexible.
- b. DNR (Clayton)
  - i. The non-point program is fully staffed. Ben Uvaas is the new agricultural nonpoint source implementation coordinator, and statewide point of contact for anything related to NR 151, Notice of Discharge program.
  - ii. 2025 grant cycle will be posted to the DNR web site in Jan. 2024 with applications due April 15, 2024. GPR funds (instead of bond) allow for more flexibility, beyond structural practices. (Flexibility for cropping practices and staffing in large-scale TRM).
  - iii. Nutrient Reduction Strategy is being updated, led by Office of Agriculture and Water Quality.
  - iv. DNR will be hosting CAFO workshops around the state in late Jan/early Feb 2024.
- c. DATCP (Anderson)
  - i. ATCP 50 draft is being assigned to a legislative committee
  - ii. ATCP 52 – No comments at public hearing. 40% of Crop Insurance Rebates for Cover Crops funding has been requested.
  - iii. Anderson noted four staff position openings that included Producer-Led Program Manager (Dana Christel has left) and Engineering staff (Ryan has left).
- d. Extension (Zerr)
  - i. Natural Resource Educators funding shortfall made up via NRCS contribution agreement (2 years). Overall, Extension has fewer staff openings. Recent Watershed and Soil Health conference appeared to go well.

#### 10) 2024 Meeting Dates

- a. March 6 (Annual Conf.); July – TBD; Oct 17 (County Con. Mtg.); Dec – TBD

#### 11) Adjourn @ 12:53 pm