



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Professional Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 25, 2023 Time: 2:00 p.m. Location: Virtual

Mission: Lead the planning and implementation of the Wisconsin Land+Water Annual Conference, conservation awards, and the professional improvement scholarship programs.

Committee Members			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Reali, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Holt, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patty Benedict, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Hendrickson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christina Hesselberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitchell McCarthy	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel McFarlane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kyle Minks
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan O'Connell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geoff Schramm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Stadnyk	
Non-Voting Advisors			
<input type="checkbox"/> Coreen Fallat, DATCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Drew Zelle, DATCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Karl Gesch, WDNR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Hurley, NRCS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Zerr, UW-Extension			
WI Land+Water Staff Liaison (non-voting)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Schlutt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Warkentin	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Krueger	
Other Attendees			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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: Reali
 - a. Roll Call: As noted above.
 - b. Adopt Agenda – Hendrickson/Holt to adopt the agenda. Motion passed by voice vote.

- c. Approve January 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Benedict – Hendrickson/Holt to approve the minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.
- II. Welcome Guests/Prospective Members/Advisors – Reali stated Curt Diehl (Dane), Mary Jo Gingras (Ashland), Tim Dahl (Door), Buxton Toutant (Marquette), Christina Hesselberg (LaCrosse), along with an NRCS employee, indicated interest in being on the PIC. Reali will follow up with them. Introductions were made.
- III. Conference Evaluations: Warkentin – Warkentin reviewed responses to the evaluations. She stated there were approximately 500 attendees. Overall, the comments were positive regarding sessions, presenters, being back in person, and networking. Topics for the next conference were suggested and will be discussed at the August conference planning meeting. Warkentin noted comments on the food and rooms will be shared with Chula Vista. She said when Chula Vista was chosen there were plans to renovate the hotel rooms and our conference was to be in the new meeting space. Plans were put on hold due to Covid. Regarding the raffle, evaluations indicated a majority of those that responded either did not have a preference or prefer only cash prizes. Benedict reported 760 raffle tickets were sold for a total of \$1,904. The 50/50 raffle netted \$1,080. There was discussion on preselling raffle tickets, which cannot be mailed. Warkentin distributed some packets at a Board meeting and some were given out at area meetings. Once the raffle licenses are issued, tickets can be printed and distributed for presale. The 2024 and 2025 conferences are at the KI Center in Green Bay and the 2026 conference is at the Chula Vista. RFPs will be sent out in 2024 for the 2027/2028 conferences. Hurley and Warkentin mentioned NRCS attendance was high as many attended the conference following their regional meeting.
- IV. Silent Auction Evaluation: Warkentin – Warkentin announced Megan Steckelberg, who coordinated the silent auction, accepted a different job. The Youth Education Committee will be looking for someone to take the lead for the silent auction at their May meeting. Warkentin reported the silent auction took in \$6,787.37 after expenses. There were comments on the evaluations to bring back paper bid sheets. The online auction tabulates results after the auction closes and requires fewer volunteers. The Silent Auction Committee will discuss ways to alleviate some of the issues people had accessing the app and placing bids. It was suggested to make training available prior to the conference and have people available to assist during the silent auction.
- V. Discussion on August Meeting Date: All – A Doodle poll will be sent for dates the week of August 7-11 and 21-25. Benedict will check the availability of conference rooms at the Portage County Annex.

- VI. Other Business – Warkentin thanked the PIC and WI L+W staff for assisting at the conference.
- VII. Adjourn – Hendrickson/Holt to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict
PIC Secretary