



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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**Board of Directors**

Meeting Minutes

<b>Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2019</b>	
<b>Start Time: 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>End Time: 11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Grand Geneva Resort 7036 Grand Geneva Way Lake Geneva, WI 53147</b>
<b>Conference Phone:</b>	(877) 826-6967
<b>Conf ID:</b>	2683619685 (dial when prompted)
<p><b>WI LAND+WATER BOD Members:</b> <u>Area 1 (LM)</u>: Ken Dolata (<i>Oconto County LCD</i>), Chuck Wagner (<i>Kewaunee County LWCC</i>); <u>Area 2 (LV)</u>: Greg Baneck (<i>Outagamie LCD</i>), Mike Hofberger (<i>Calumet LWCC</i>); <u>Area 3 (SE)</u>: Monte Osterman (<i>Racine County LCC</i>), Alan Barrows (<i>Waukesha LRD</i>); <u>Area 4 (S)</u>: Kurt Calkins (<i>Columbia LWCD</i>), Melissa Luck (<i>Richland LCC</i>); <u>Area 5 (W)</u>: Ben Wojahn (<i>Vernon LWCD</i>); Kathy Zeglin (<i>Trempealeau ELUCC</i>); <u>Area 6 (WC)</u>: Russell Rindsig (<i>Barron LCC</i>); Chase Cummings (<i>Pepin LCD</i>); <u>Area 7 (NW)</u>: Brad Matson (<i>Iron LCC</i>), Ben Dufford (<i>Bayfield LWCD</i>); <u>Area 8 (NC)</u>: Dave Solin (<i>Langlade LCC</i>); Carolyn Scholl (<i>Vilas LWCD</i>).</p> <p><b>Non-Voting Advisors:</b> Angela Biggs (<i>NRCS</i>), Richard Castelnuovo (<i>DATCP</i>), John Exo (<i>UWEX</i>), Ken Genskow (<i>UWEX</i>), Beth Mason (<i>NACD</i>), Mary Anne Lowndes (<i>DNR</i>), Dan Bahr (<i>WCA</i>), Vacant (<i>FSA</i>)</p>	<p><b>In Attendance:</b> Ken Dolata (Oconto LCD), Chuck Wagner (Kewaunee LWCC), Greg Baneck (Outagamie LCD), Monte Osterman (Racine LCC), Alan Barrows (Waukesha LRD), Kurt Calkins (Columbia LWCD), Melissa Luck (Richland LCC), Ben Wojahn (Vernon LWCD); Kathy Zeglin (Trempealeau ELUCC), Russell Rindsig (Barron LCC), Brad Matson (Iron LCC), Ben Dufford (Bayfield LWCD), Dave Solin (Langlade LCC), Carolyn Scholl (Vilas LWCD)</p> <p><b>Via Conference Phone:</b> None</p> <p><b>Absent Board Members:</b> Mike Hofberger (Calumet LWCC), Chase Cummings (Pepin LCD)</p> <p><b>Others:</b> Coreen Fallat (DATCP), Scott Frank (Shawano LCD), Dan Treloar (Kenosha LWCD), Shawn Pfaff (Pfaff Public Affairs), Matt Krueger and Penny Pohle (WI Land+Water staff)</p>
<p><b>WI LAND+WATER Staff:</b> Matt Krueger (<i>Executive Director</i>), Kim Warkentin (<i>Operations &amp; Youth Education Director</i>), Kate Brunner (<i>SOC Program Manager</i>), Chris Schlutt (<i>Conference and Outreach Program Coordinator</i>), Christina Anderson (<i>Source Water Protection Program Manager</i>), Penny Pohle (<i>Conservation Training &amp; Membership Services Coordinator</i>), Elliot Meyer (<i>Communications &amp; Media Coordinator</i>)</p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WI LAND+WATER meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person or via conference call if desired. Please state your name when you use the conference calling service.</li> <li>Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the board.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Meeting Date: Thurs, July 18, 2019, 8:30 AM, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI</b>	

**All agenda items may be actionable  
March 13, 2019**

9:00 am Call to order – Chair Solin

- Pledge of allegiance

- Roll call - Chase Cummings-excused absence.
- Adopt agenda - Motion Scholl/Wagner, none opposed.
- Approve previous meeting minutes (December 6, 2018) – Motion Rindsig/Dolata, none opposed.

9:05 am

Chair's report – Solin

- Welcome Ben Dufford who is replacing John Krell in the Northwest Area.
- WI County Association magazine-tremendous articles by WI Land+Water, lot of people are talking. Krueger noted that WI Land+Water staff Christina Anderson and Elliot Meyer spent a lot of time working on the articles. Krueger has been able to use/share the magazine at meetings.

9:07 am

Executive Committee report – President Baneck

- 2020 WI Land+Water Membership Dues – Dues last changed in 2017. Executive Committee recommends a flat \$25 increase across the board leaving the formula as it is. Do as part of the budget. Constitutes \$1,700 increase. Don't want to put too much of a burden on counties. This should be on the agenda every year to discuss. Motion Osterman/Scholl, none opposed to increase 2020 membership dues by \$25 per county.

Discussion of financial matters – Treasurer Barrows, Krueger

- 2018 year-end budget wrap-up
  - Finished year well. Better than expected, attributable to doing better on conference than expected and conservative budgeting/being under budget on expenses, in a number of categories.
    - However, was a 27<sup>th</sup> pay period, which wasn't initially budgeted for. Dealt with by adding Line 46000 Operating Fund Surplus – ended up being \$10,962 in total payroll and related expenditures. Essentially, we treated as a "bonus."
- 2019 WI Land+Water operating budget revisions
  - Budget packets were provided to BOD. In December we initially set a 1% cost of living increase for staff; but were able to adjust based on positive year-end to provide a 2% increase. (Still below cost-of-living of 3%). Moved some expenses around to increase Pohle from 75% to 85%. Motion Wojahn/Barrows to approve the budget revisions as presented, none opposed.
- 2019 budget-to-actual report
  - Reflects that dues, conference registrations, coming in. Not a ton to report.

9:27 am

Executive Director's report – Matt Krueger

- Prep for annual business meeting
  - Brad Pfaff from Pfaff Public Affairs will be joining the meeting later to discuss the state budget and political items.
  - Review of WI Land+Water resolutions-five resolutions to be taken under consideration at Friday's business meeting:
    - Dolata brought forward resolution "Maintain FY 2020 Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative" from the Great Lakes Committee. Motion by Dolata/Osterman/Wagner to change the wording to "Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association requests the entire Wisconsin legislative delegation to support at a minimum the \$300 million annual funding level for the GLRI in the upcoming FY 2020 federal budget" and approve the resolution to move forward, none opposed.
    - "Request for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison and UW-Extension to Develop Nitrogen Application Rate Guidelines for Groundwater Protection" resolution will be a floor resolution at the business meeting. Portage County approved this for consideration by membership.

- “To Restore 3.6 Million in Funding to UW Extension”
  - “Recommend Changes to the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program”
  - “In Support of Reforming Wisconsin’s Eminent Domain Laws”
- Bylaws revision/mission change
  - Krueger and Baneck made reference to the business meeting and proposed bylaw changes. Article II-the current mission redlined and clean mission below on the copy provided to the BOD. Approval of the changes will require a 2/3 majority vote at the business meeting.
  - Technical Committee description was accidentally listed under Youth Ed, which will be corrected in version approved—does not require vote.
- 2019 County Conservationists/Board meetings
  - Due to some dissatisfaction with Hotel Mead, the 2019 meetings will be held at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn on July 18-19 and December 12-13. The BOD will hold a dinner the evening of July 17. Registration fees may go up \$10 to help cover the additional costs. Kim is still negotiating costs with the hotel. Will look at options to transport people from/to the hotel for evening activities (campus shuttle van, Lyft/Uber, Holiday Inn shuttle, will check with the Chamber of Commerce and Convention Bureau).
- Strategic planning update-initially goal was to get approved at this meeting and present to membership at the business meeting. Committee input was not built in the process, and this is an important part of the strategic plan. It’s a five-year plan and important plan, so instead of rushing this through, recommend holding off to the County Con meeting. Still relevant to update the membership at the business meeting. Won’t be a lot of changes after this. Motion Calkins/Barrows to hold over until the July County Con meeting, none opposed.
- Annual Conference
  - 2019 Conference-received \$4,500 in scholarships, great speakers, ~375 registered, numbers where we should be, this is going to be a great conference.
  - 2020-21 Conferences-will be held in Green Bay.
  - 2022-23 Conferences-being sensitive to being in a more central location and having hotel rooms on site. PIC had wanted the Wilderness in Wisconsin Dells; WI Land+Water had difficulty negotiating with them and then talked to Chula Vista who knocked off costs and really wanted to work with us. An email went out to the PIC that the WI Land+Water staff had changed the location-seemed a decision was made to change sites without the PIC being informed that there were any problems. After the committee understood the problems, they agreed it should be moved to Chula Vista. Need to clarify the roles of staff and committees.
- Discussion on Association decision-making and policy development processes.
  - Legislative/Administrative Committee voted to nearly double our budget request for the state staffing grant. Some were uncomfortable with the increased request. Ultimately we worked through and got back to \$12.4 million, some members felt that since the motion was \$16.6 million that should be the ask not the \$12.4. Krueger wants to respect the committee, but the \$16.6 isn’t going to happen and would harm the association’s reputation.
  - The guiding principles of each committee need to be looked at regarding better clarity of roles of committee members and chairs vs. staff vs. BOD/Executive Committee, and the chain of command. The association has grown since these principles were created. Need to find the middle ground and ensure all have clarity about decision-

making. Ad-hoc committee will be created to revisit the guiding principles and will consist of committee chairs and possibly advisors. Wojahn would like to serve on the committee.

- 10:40 am State budget priorities and the upcoming legislative session
- Water/conservation in the spotlight
    - Governor Evers sworn in, many cabinet members appointed, throughout his cabinet interviews/appointments the importance of water was included, 2019 named as Year of Clean Drinking Water. Krueger and Pfaff lobbied hard to get our stuff in the Governor's budget and worked on priorities. Farm groups are not walking away and are sticking with us. Governor Evers announced his budget two weeks ago with water theme throughout, among other priorities. Full funding of statutory formula (avg of 3 positions) or \$12.4 million. Boost cost share from \$3.5 M to \$5.0 M – in Evers' announced package. Didn't get in restoring \$150,000 to WGNHS for FTE hydrogeologist to do groundwater mapping at county level. We are pleased with the expansion of bond money for SWRM. We have good relationships with DATCP's team-Angela James, Sara Walling, Brad Pfaff. We are right where we need to be. Speak on April 3 at the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality. Unsure how the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality will coincide with the budget. People are going to come out in masses to the hearings because people are talking about groundwater. Joint Finance will hold five different public hearings around the state. Helpful that county cons are credible-stay out of the politics and play the facts. Know we have a specific role, trust us. Christina and Chase Cummings are attending Rep. Kitchen's Nitrate Work Group meeting right now
- 10:11 am National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) update – Monte Osterman, Baneck, Solin
- Osterman reported on the regional meeting held in Racine County including the Foxconn driving tour through entire site during a rain event where they saw erosion control, wetlands, etc. A lot of compliments on the meeting. Getting good exposure.
  - District Operations Membership Committee-request NRCS to streamline and standardize all their contracts. Sent questionnaires home with us. Supposed to be sending questionnaire out to the association/districts (national standard to use the NRCS vehicles).
  - NACD bylaws only allow elected officials to vote. Wisconsin is different than the other members who only have elected officials representing them at meetings. We have a combined association of county staff and elected officials. Bylaws change would be to allow whoever (staff or elected official) attends the meetings to have the authority to vote. Right before the vote was supposed to happen on changing the bylaws, we were pulled aside and it was decided to create a motion to form a special committee to review the bylaws and make this change part of the bylaw package. Osterman will serve on the committee. This will make the change to allow staff from Wisconsin to vote less of a focus and easier to get approved. We are going to make this happen!
  - Have been asked to head up a new national youth and education program. Wisconsin is being looked on the national level; seeing things happening at the county and local level.
  - NACD Technical Assistance Grant for enhancing conservation technical assistance with NRCS-unfortunately WI Land+Water, DATCP, and NRCS received the grant announcement and stipulations near the deadline. Hope to bring some money to Wisconsin.
- 10:50 am Agency reports-DATCP, DNR, NRCS, Extension
- Fallat passed out her report and briefly reviewed it.
- 11:00 am Motion Scholl/Barrows to adjourn, none opposed.