



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Legislative/Administrative Committee

Minutes of the June 11, 2020 Conference Call

Meeting called to order by Calkins at 1:00 pm.

- **Roll Call**

On the call: Kurt Calkins Chair (Columbia), Greg Baneck (Outagamie), Erin Hanson Vice Chair/Secretary (Door), Paul Daigle (Marathon), Perry Lindquist (Waukesha), Ben Wojahn (Vernon), Monte Osterman (Racine), Lynda Schweikert (Grant), Melissa Schlupp (Sauk), Amy Piaget (Dane), Brian Haase (Waupaca), Paul Tollard (Fond du Lac), Scott Frank (Shawano), Matt Krueger (WLWCA), Christina Anderson (WLWCA), and Coreen Fallat (DATCP). Also on the call: Jen Schmitz (Monroe County).

- **Adopt Agenda/Additions** (June 11, 2020)

MOTION (Daigle, Piaget) to approve the agenda. Motion carried, no negative vote.

- **Approve Previous Mtg Minutes** (April 8, 2020)

MOTION (Baneck, Tollard) to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2020 meeting. Motion carried, no negative vote.

- **Election of Committee Officers** (Chair, Vice Chair/Secretary)

NOMINATION (Haase, Wojahn) of Calkins for Chair. No other nominations. Unanimous vote carried.

NOMINATION (Calkins, Piaget) of Erin Hanson as Vice Chair/Secretary. No other nominations.

Unanimous vote carried.

- **Agency/Partner Reports**

DATCP – Coreen Fallat

- COVID: DATCP staff working from home except when out in field, still requirements for social distancing, vehicles, etc. Using Skype or Teams. Email best for contact, phones messages also received regularly.
- June 22, 2020 – public comment deadline for Verification of Depth to Bedrock Standard
- June 11, 2020 – SITCOM training survey due
- Staff Updates: new hires are Tim Jackson (Livestock Siting) & Zack Zopp (Ag Impact Statement Program); interviews completed for Section Chief Soil & Watershed Section and Program Planning Analyst
- DATCP budget: 5% reduction met, proceeding with hiring. Any legislative adjustments after July 1 unknown and could impact proposals for next biennial budget.

- March/April partner meetings delayed, planning for virtual meetings or alternate
- **Debrief/Next Steps on Q&A Session from April With Minnesota Assn of Soil & Water Conservation District Exec Dir, Leann Buck RE their resolution process**

DISCUSSION of modifying WLWCA resolution process to be more continuous process and include Legislative/Administrative Committee, Area Associations, and/or Executive Committee to review resolutions, link to legislative priorities strategy, vet and strengthen them. Consider excluding floor resolutions at annual conference. Consider development of standing policy documents allowing committees to act on established positions (example adequate county conservation staff funding), retaining resolutions for major policy shifts.

AGREED by consensus to form an Ad-hoc working group to create proposal to alter bylaws and resolution process to advance to executive ctte for review. Members: Perry Lindquist, Kurt Calkins, Amy Piaget, Matt Krueger, Melissa Schlupp

- **Update on Next Steps Regarding Resolution #2 from 2020 WI Land & Water Conf**

DISCUSSION Daigle may have framework for policy paper as discussed April 8 available for next meeting. WLWCA staff will research 1) resolutions passed the last five years and 2) legislative priorities for last five years and compare how they align. May be used to identify potential position papers.

- **Topics for July County Conservation Meeting**

DISCUSSION Krueger reported that the July County Conservation Meeting will be virtual, held afternoon July 9 and morning July 10, with reduced registration fee. UW-Extension will provide technical support for zoom meeting. Broad structure: Key note speaker(s), one technical/professional track for LCD staff, one public-facing general track, County Con roundtable breakout (two 50 min sessions) with prearranged topics. Possible breakout topics: Brick Cider (Amy Piaget has contact), ordinances for nonpoint pollution (Perry Lindquist's survey), TMDL implementation (Greg Baneck volunteer).

Committee members also suggested: Climate change task force; New Secretary designee of Agriculture; Preston Cole; promoting racial diversity, equity and inclusion in county conservation; Public Health speaker on long term COVID projections; supply chains for local dairy, meat and produce; agriculture economics; water consumption in agriculture processes; targeted talks for farmer-led groups and LCC members.

- **Area Representation on Leg/Admin Committee**

DISCUSSION First step is to inventory Leg/Admin Committee to identify if all area associations are represented. Ideally would want both staff and LCC from each area on committee to encourage two-way flow of information between each area association and committee. WLWCA to review inventory and discuss role/tasks for communicating between area associations and committee at next meeting.

Krueger reported staffing grant lobby strategy is to work with supportive legislators, DATCP Secretary designee, Sara Walling, Governor's Office and Wisconsin County Association to make sure staffing grant is still a priority. [DATCP Secretary will submit budget request to legislature in late summer-September in preparation for submittal to DOA in January.]

- **Adjourn**

Motion (Schlupp, Scott) to adjourn at 2:40. Next meeting date Thurs July 16 at 1pm.