



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Legislative/Administrative Committee

Minutes of the December 11, 2020 Meeting

Meeting called to order by Calkins at 9:00 am.

▪ Roll Call

On the call: Kurt Calkins Chair (Columbia), Greg Baneck (Outagamie), Steve Bradley (Portage), Paul Daigle (Marathon), Scott Frank (Shawano), Brian Haase (Waupaca), Erin Hanson Vice Chair/Secretary (Door), Perry Lindquist (Waukesha), Bob Micheel (Monroe), Monte Osterman (Racine), Amy Piaget (Dane), Melissa Schlupp (Sauk), Lynda Schweikert (Grant), Paul Tollard (Fond du Lac), Ben Wojahn (Vernon), Matt Krueger (WI Land + Water), Christina Anderson (WI Land + Water), Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein (DATCP), Mike Gilbertson (DNR).

Also attending for portions of the call: Allison Werner (River Alliance of Wisconsin)

▪ Adopt Agenda/Additions (12/11/2020)

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

▪ Approve Previous Mtg Minutes (10/14/2020)

MOTION (Schlupp, Piaget) to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting. Motion carried, no negative vote.

▪ Agency/Partner Reports

Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein, DATCP:

- DATCP plans to release a RFP for supplemental SEG allocation on Monday 12/14/20. It will be a short application (~300 words) for a total of \$275,000 of SEG that was not allocated. A variety of innovative projects will be considered with project cap of \$50,000. Committee feedback that later deadline (not January 8) would allow for better project proposals and discussion with DATCP staff in advance of submittal.
- Annual Report Questions – committee feedback that keeping deadline in mid-March would be preferred over a sooner deadline.
- DATCP is looking to improve electronic tracking and submittal of reports. Committee consensus that counties would support a combined reporting system for DATCP and DNR, however many have concerns that BITS would not be acceptable for that use.
- New staff – two engineers hired, two new Soil & Watershed staff for nutrient management to be hired.

ACTION: Gilbertson will bring up county concerns about BITS to DNR group charged with overseeing BITS use and development of new modules.

Mike Gilbertson, DNR:

- DNR will release the economic impact analysis (EIA) for the Targeted Nitrate Performance Standard in January 2021. This will be the first time the draft rule is available to the public.
- Every year agencies are required to report on sections of Administrative Code that are obsolete. For nonpoint DNR has identified NR 120 (Priority Watershed Program) and a portion of the nutrient management standard in NR 151 that refers to phased implementation in ORW, ERW and source water protection areas.

▪ **Clean Water Referendum (River Alliance)**

DISCUSSION: Allison Werner provided background about the origin and strategy associated with a Clean Water Referendum. The purpose is to give voters a chance to express their concerns and support for clean water with a short, simple, and easy to understand question. Specific counties were targeted for the first opportunity to put the referendum question on the April 2021 ballot. River Alliance hopes other counties will have the question on the ballot in November. Individual counties could customize the question (e.g. reference agriculture, economy, or other local priorities) so long as the question is consistent with primary goal of supporting clean water in WI. More information is available at <https://voteforcleanwater.com> and by contacting Werner directly.

▪ **2021-2023 State Budget Priorities/Advocacy/December 11 CC MTG**

DISCUSSION: Shawn Pfaff, Krueger, and others have had meetings with and/or reached out to DATCP leadership, Governor's office, Rep. Novak's office, and others to talk about the \$13M staffing grant request. Discussions have included need to recognize that funding target needs to change over time. DATCP did not include fully funding the staff formula in budget request, however questions from DOA suggest it is being reviewed. The December 11 county con meeting is focused around dos/don't for advocacy and was sponsored by leg/adm committee to waive registration fee. **ACTION:** Krueger will share Pfaff's "political lay of the land" document with committee.

▪ **Update on Resolution/Policy Making Change Directive from BOD**

DISCUSSION: Lindquist has drafted language for changes to by-laws to reflect proposed new resolution and policy process. Will eventually need to vote to approve changes to by-laws (not at 2021 annual meeting). Specific language related to approval/referral by committee was discussed. Decided to review final language for by-laws change at next Leg/Adm meeting to be scheduled before Lindquist's last working day on February 15, 2021.

▪ **Update on NMP Implementation Subcommittee Work**

DISCUSSION: Daigle and Langfoss are revising the draft policy position paper based on subcommittee discussions. Plan is to return it to the Leg/Adm committee for the next meeting. Many issues have been put into a "parking lot" to focus on goal of having all cropland covered by a nutrient management plan. DATCP Soil & Water section is currently doing strategic planning and Heaton-Amrhein has shared notes. DATCP plans to open ATCP 50 in 2021 so it may be good timing to advocate for changes to that administrative code, though other changes may be needed (eg statute changes) and/or complicated by factors such as politics.

- **NACD Policy Priorities**

DISCUSSION: Micheel and Osterman discussed NACD 2021 Government Affairs Priorities document. In the past there wasn't direction from WI Land + Water membership so they are looking to get feedback through this committee. Osterman identified relevant items, passing over those that focus on the western and great plains states. New this year is climate change - highlighted as important and that work we do supports carbon sequestration.

ACTION: Krueger to send NACD 2021 Government Affairs Priorities and list of those that will sunset to committee.

- **Next Meeting Date and Topics (TBD)**

Discussion included varying levels of support for meeting virtually in 2021– some prefer at least some in-person meetings (when safe, at outdoor park shelter when weather is nice, and/or in person if controversial topics are to be discussed) and some enjoy benefits of not driving and ability to multi-task if necessary.

ACTIONS:

- Calkins and/or Krueger will schedule a short Leg/Adm zoom meeting to pick 2021 dates once BOD meeting dates are known. May target week prior to BOD meetings. Schedule next committee meeting before Lindquist's last day on February 15, 2021 to review by-law changes.
- Leg/Adm committee members to identify potentially interested LCC members to join committee – either from their own or a neighboring county. Area Association meetings may be a good place to start.

- **Adjourn**

MOTION (Frank, Baneck) to adjourn at 11:35 am.