



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Legislative/Administrative Committee

Minutes of the June 16, 2021 Meeting

Meeting called to order by Calkins at 1:30 pm.

▪ **Roll Call**

Committee Members: Kurt Calkins Chair (Columbia), Paul Daigle (Marathon), Wes Davis (Rock), Scott Frank (Shawano), Brian Haase (Waupaca), Erin Hanson Vice Chair/Secretary (Door), Melissa Luck (Richland), Dan Masterpole (Chippewa), Amy Piaget (Dane), Russ Rindsig (Barron), Paul Tollard (Fond du Lac)

WI Land + Water Staff: Christina Anderson, Matt Krueger

Agencies: Lacey Cochart (DATCP), Mike Gilbertson (DNR)

Other Attendees: Kirk Langfoss (Marathon), Chase Cummings (Dunn), and for a portion of the meeting Steve Ventura (UW-Madison Emeritus), Jim Arch (Clark), Shawn Pfaff (contract lobbyist)

▪ **Adopt Agenda/Additions (06/16/2021)**

MOTION (Davis, Tollard) to approve the agenda. Motion carried, no negative vote.

▪ **Approve Previous Meeting Minutes (04/12/2021)**

MOTION (Piaget, Rindsig) to approve the April 12, 2021 minutes. Motion carried, no negative vote.

▪ **Soil Science Courses and Curriculum for Land & Water Professionals (Steve Ventura, Professor Emeritus, UW-Madison)**

DISCUSSION: Ventura has been asked to modernize UW soil science courses. He invited members to phone, (608)512-2889, or email, sventura@wisc.edu, him to answer two questions:

- 1) What is the one course (and content) every natural resource professional should take?
- 2) What courses comprise the in-depth knowledge that need to be part of a major in soil science?

▪ **Septage Study Group Update On Revisions to NR 113/NR 114**

DISCUSSION: Jim Arch has represented Land + Water on a stakeholder group since 2017-8 for revisions to NR 113/114. DNR presented a final report to the workgroup in March. Items included septage bottleneck during certain times of year (expensive to bring to municipality in winter, storage), truck labeling, cover crops on fallow fields, and reduced restrictions for winter spreading. Revisions have been submitted to the JCRAR. Arch doesn't see a large changes for counties.

▪ **Update on 2021-2023 State Budget**

DISCUSSION: Joint Finance Committee actions are nearing an end, with DATCP and DNR sections of the budget completed last week Thursday. There was an increase in funding for county staffing, well compensation, farmer-led, and nonpoint grants. Land + Water is part of a coalition of partners who had legitimate discussions with legislators about the real need/costs to improve water quality. Joint Finance Committee did not want policy or new programs in the budget.

County conservation staff funding in Joint Finance Committee budget: increase of \$2,065,900 (\$1,377,300 in nonpoint SEG, and \$688,600 in GPR) for a total of \$11,030,000 in 2021-22, and an increase of \$2,315,900 (\$1,543,900 in nonpoint SEG, and \$772,000 in GPR) for a total of \$11,280,000 in 2022-23. This translates roughly to 100% of first position and almost all of 70% of the second position. The proposed increase is one-time funding, not an adjustment to the base, and is less than that in the Governor's budget and AB 790 which passed the Assembly unanimously in 2020 but was not taken up by the Senate due to COVID.

▪ **Agency/Partner Reports**

Lacey Cochart (DATCP):

- DATCP is working with DNR to revitalize discussion between the two state agencies on NR 151 agricultural performance standard implementation, including the 2003 Implementation Strategy. A charter has been approved for a new work group to review barriers, strategic deployment of state staff/funding, existing roles and processes. First meeting will be in July.

Mike Gilbertson (DNR):

- Barnyard runoff guidance document has been significantly revised and approved by the Land + Water technical committee. Once DNR administration has signed-off the guidance will be released for public comment. Changes point to the process wastewater performance standard language and the document is focused on clarifying the language in administrative code.

▪ **Update on Revision of ATCP 50**

DISCUSSION: Cochart described the timeline and plans to bring a scope statement to the DATCP board for approval in September. The depth to bedrock verification technical standard DATCP 01 will be published soon. DATCP will likely need additional hearings for the ATCP 50 revision and has plans for a robust, targeted public participation process. This revision of ATCP 50 will not include anything related to the nitrogen targeted performance standard.

▪ **Update on NR 151 (Nitrogen Targeted Performance Standard)**

DISCUSSION: Gilbertson reported that DNR received extensive comments on the economic impact analysis (EIA) for the nitrogen targeted performance standard. DNR is waiting for UW economic analysis results before finalizing their EIA. DNR's plan is to go to the Natural Resources Board in August for approval to take the proposed rule revisions to public hearing.

▪ **Final Review of Report from Nutrient Management Planning Subcommittee**

DISCUSSION: Since the last meeting the paper was narrowed to a singular recommendation and the legislative fiscal bureau request was moved to a short-term goal. Under the proposed by-law changes the paper is considered a position statement that goes to Land + Water Executive Director (Krueger). It does not require Board of Directors or Executive Committee approval.

MOTION (Daigle, Frank) to forward the report to the Executive Committee for action. Motion carried, no negative vote.

▪ **July County Conservation Meeting Program Preview**

DISCUSSION: Krueger previewed the agenda and gave background on several of the scheduled topics. Meeting registration is currently open and the agenda is near complete.

- **Update on Executive Committee Action Related to Proposed Bylaw Changes**
DISCUSSION: The Executive Committee discussed the proposed bylaw changes and approved with modifications. The position statements and resolutions section of the bylaws are now separated. Both are directed to the Executive Director for response to time-sensitive issues. The Board of Directors retained ability to generate resolutions in advance of the annual meeting. The Board of Directors will review the proposed changes during their July meeting.
- **Process for Further Assessment of Guiding Principles, Policy Positions and Legislative/Budget Priorities**
DISCUSSION: Krueger is looking for participation on a subcommittee to help work through a process of reviewing Land + Water resolutions and policy positions. One of the first steps will be to see if there is adequate representation of important topics. Kurt Calkins and Melissa Luck volunteered.
- **Legislative Updates**
DISCUSSION: The Joint Finance Committee was clear that they want legislative issues to be separate from the budget process. Thus, there is a lot to do legislatively after the budget. Provisions related to nitrate and Farmland Preservation have momentum.
- **Other Items of Interest**
DISCUSSION: ATCP 51: there is no DATCP effort underway to again take up rule revisions. Cochart will reach out to Frank to discuss ideas related to implementation meetings.
- **Adjourn**
 Next meeting dates August 18, 1:00 and October 18, 10:00
MOTION (Frank, Davis) to adjourn at 4:10 pm.