

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS SCHEDULE AND DETAILS

### TUESDAY, MARCH 2

11:00am-12:15pm -OPENING SESSION: **Welcome and Keynote.** WI Land+Water Board of Directors Chair Monte Osterman kicks off the conference. Executive Director Matt Krueger shares some conference highlights, followed by our keynote, farmer, and soil health expert Jimmy Emmons, joining us all the way from Oklahoma!

12:30-12:45pm: **SOCIO TIPS & TRICKS** Join WI Land+Water staff as they point out some of the highlights of the conference!

1:00-2:30pm – **TECHNICAL ROUNDTABLE #1: Streambank and Shoreland Standards Update.** An update from the SOC team on the changes to a group of four related NRCS standards for streambank and shoreline restoration (CPS 395, 580, 582, and 584). Stacey Dehne, P.E, DATCP; Heather Palmquist, Iron Co. LWCD, will provide updates to the changes of these standards and provide examples of projects planned and designed to the new standards. **1 Engineering PDH, 1.5 Soil & Water Management CEU**

### 1:00-2:00PM: CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Communication Strategies in a Virtual World.** How could we complicate communication even further? How about a global pandemic that forces drastic change to the workforce. Communication techniques had already been evolving quickly and drastically and then COVID19 impacted it even further. Will communication as we know it rebound? This session will provide insight into the evolution of communication along with effective strategies to engage your co-workers and colleagues. *Presenter: Brad Gingras, Superior Strategies.* **1**

**Professional Development CEU**

**Behavior change communication to protect groundwater: Examining farmer preferences related to nitrogen use in Pepin County.** The predominant land use in Pepin County is agriculture, with a mix of livestock (dairy) and cash crop (corn/soybean) operations. Nitrogen is needed and used in all croplands associated with those operations, many of which are on highly permeable soils with little organic matter. How does the county maintain a viable agricultural industry and reduce or eliminate the negative health effects resulting from the industry's use of the land? Through insights garnered from phone interviews and a print survey of farmers, researchers developed behavior change communication recommendations relevant to farmers' preferences and motivations, related to reducing nitrate contamination of groundwater. *Presenters: Theresa Vander Woude, M.S. Student and Bret Shaw, Ph.D., UW-Madison Dept. of Life Sciences Communication; Jessica McMahon and Kevin Trushenski, Pepin Co. LCD; and Chase Cummings, Dunn Co. LCD.* **1 Professional**

**Development CEU**

### 2:15-3:15PM: CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**LCCs and LCDs Working Together: Taking Your Partnership to Light Speed.** Back again by popular demand, this session always generates a great discussion! Successfully navigating a conservation department through the asteroid field of today's funding shortfalls and resource concerns requires respect, collaboration, and communication (even when you speak different languages). Hear lessons learned from experienced and savvy "pilots" in this stellar panel session on strengthening the LCC/LCD partnership. *Panel: Ken Dolata, Oconto LCD; MaryJo Gingras, Ashland County LCD; Melissa Luck, Richland County LCC; Russell Rindsig, Barron County LCC.* **1**

**Professional Development CEU**

**Promoting pollinator habitat through productive partnerships.** Pollinator habitat is still the buzz (pun intended)! Learn how to better tell the pollinator story through partnerships and creative tools (featuring Take Habitat Home Brochures, Backyard Pollinator Bears and Conservation Clay Kits) so you can do more together, better and faster than ever before. *Presenter: Aaron Kuehl, Pheasants Forever.* **1 Integrated Pest Management CEU**

2:45-4:15PM – **TECHNICAL ROUNDTABLE #2: INNOVATIVE WAYS TO CONTROL CROPLAND EROSION.** Join Patrick Bula, Marathon County CPZ, along with three Eau Plaine Partnership for Integrated Conservation (EPPIC) farmers: Brian Forrest, Maple Ridge Dairy; Tom Miller, Miltrim Farms; and Matthew Oehmichen, Short Lane Ag, who will focus on practices they've been using successfully on their operation. Topics include no-till/low-disturbance manure management, marginal cropland conversion, and cover crops. **1 Engineering PDH**

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### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3**

9:00-9:45am – **GENERAL SESSION: Virtual Events: Tools and Best Practices.** One year later, we are all still navigating virtual options for what used to be primarily in-person events. In the spring of 2020, PFI pivoted hard to transition their field day season (60+ events) to online formats. Since then the organization has also held a variety of additional online events large and small. This session will walk through some of the tools PFI has adopted over that period and best practices to support virtual success! *Presenter: Maggie Norton, Farmer Outreach Coordinator, Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI).* **1 Professional Development CEU**

### 10:00-11:00am – CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Iron County Youth Education Program “Woods and Waters.”** 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the “Woods and Waters” project at the Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department. This program was created to provide our small schools with an opportunity to learn about Iron County’s bountiful natural resources. The idea was to provide a field research practicum and to engage students in learning about forestry, wildlife research and management, and water resources. Each field season the students study the states endangered American Marten during the “Woods” component of the project and during the spring and summer “Waters” season, students study lakes and the common loon. Both iconic species in our state, our local students have not just studied these species, they have helped them thrive. To date, the “Waters” project has helped loons hatch out 82 loon chicks from artificial nest platforms and while studying the marten, students have documented reproduction, habitat availability, movement, and have provided the state with a plethora of important information about an endangered species. *Presenter: Zach Wilson, Iron Co. LWCD.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

**Survey 123 vs. Arc Collector: What you need to know when deciding on a mobile GIS application.** Survey 123 and ArcGIS Collector are two ESRI apps that focus on data collection in the field with mobile devices. For anyone familiar with ESRI and their myriad of products, it can be confusing what product to use and when. By the time you read this, chances are something will have changed. As a matter of fact, ArcGIS Collector is transitioning to a new app called "Field Maps." At least the name of the Field Maps apps makes some sense! Survey 123 has nothing to do with actual surveying with a high-grade GPS but is based more on a tabular survey about a particular item of interest. If you have tabular data to collect about a certain feature such as a monitoring location and do not need to collect geometry such as lines or polygons, then Survey 123 is a good starting point. ArcGIS Collector/Field Maps is best suited to collecting mapping data in the field where you

might be locating boundaries or locating a linear feature. Both apps have the ability to connect to your GIS services in the Cloud or sync later on if wireless service is inadequate. This breakout will discuss each of these two ESRI mobile apps and how they have been used in Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. The discussion will cover each application's capabilities and limitations and point out the differences between the two apps and allow for discussion and Q & A. *Presenters: Andy Maracini, Winnebago County and Sarah Kussow, Outagamie County.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

**DNR Wetlands Session.** First, Tom Nedland will discuss Wetland Mitigation Basics. In Wisconsin, wetland mitigation is a statutory requirement that is triggered when certain wetland impact thresholds are exceeded. Tom will explain the options applicants have for fulfilling their wetland mitigation requirements, including conducting their own mitigation project or purchasing credits from a wetland mitigation bank. Information about the typical site conditions that are preferred will also be discussed. Then Josh Brown will review the Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust (WWCT), an in-lieu fee (ILF) wetland mitigation program administered by the Wisconsin DNR. The WWCT sells mitigation credits to developers, then uses the monies generated from credit sales to fund wetland restoration projects. Josh will address what makes a good ILF mitigation site, differences between ILF mitigation and mitigation banking, and potential opportunities for farmers to participate in the program via voluntarily selling land or a conservation easement to the WWCT. **1 Soil & Water Management CEU**

#### Noon-1:00pm – CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Stabilizing Farms and Ecosystems with Innovative Ag Runoff Treatment Options – Two years of lessons learned.** Outagamie County will provide an update on monitoring results and advancements made with the Ag Runoff Treatment Systems (ARTS) BMP, aka constructed wetlands and sediment basin combo. We will turn our eyes to the past and assess lessons learned, specifically related to mitigating downstream flooding and streambank erosion. We will share final results from the USGS monitoring of both surface and subsurface drain tile runoff, and describe the effectiveness of the ARTS BMP at the outlet. Additionally, we will provide a summary of our GIS analysis of the Lower Fox Basin where we identified land use change and the level of potential that exists to work with farms to capture and reuse runoff.

Sand County Foundation will provide an update on outreach and implementation of the Iowa State University developed Prairie Filter Strips practice in Wisconsin. Farmer and Watershed Group efforts and funding will be highlighted to demonstrate how interest and installed site geography has more than doubled over the past two years. Modelling results from a University of Wisconsin assessment of the Prairie Filter Strips effectiveness in SNAP-Plus will also be highlighted for future use of the practice in water quality compliance activities.

UW-Madison Extension will share common challenges identified when supporting early adopters of Prairie Filter Strips. Skills and knowledge related to prairie stand establishment and management are typically new to producers and require ample technical support. Guidance regarding what these learners will need from you during those initial years of adoption will be shared.

*Presenters: Jeremy Freund, Outagamie Co. LCD; Rachael Whitehair, UW Division of Extension; and Greg Olson, Sand County Foundation.* **1 Soil & Water Management CEU**

**Working within the Scope of the Wisconsin Statutes Utilizing Engineering Job Approval/Certification systems.** What you need to know about working within the scope of your NRCS Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) and DATCP Conservation Engineering Practitioner Certification, and what liabilities do you

and your counties incur if you work outside those scopes. This session will discuss the practice of engineering, state laws and exemptions, and the legal and liability aspects associated with JAA/Certification. This session is intended for county administrators, LCC members, and the technicians working within the systems. Presenters: Matt Woodrow, DATCP; Scott Mueller, NRCS; Attorney Jacob J. Curtis, von Briesen & Roper. **1 Engineering PDH, 1 Professional Development CEU**

#### 1:15-2:15pm – CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

##### **Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) – Using Watershed Information to Power**

**Conservation.** The ACPF, developed by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, supports agricultural watershed management by using high-resolution elevation data and an ArcGIS toolbox to identify site-specific opportunities for installing conservation practices across small watersheds. This non-prescriptive approach provides a menu of conservation options in the form of output maps to facilitate conservation discussions on farms and in community halls. The framework is used in conjunction with local knowledge of water and soil resource concerns, landscape features, and producer conservation preferences. Together, these provide a better understanding of the options available in developing a watershed conservation plan. This breakout will give an overview of the ACPF toolbox, discuss how ACPF can fit in with watershed planning in Wisconsin (including real world examples) and the data and system requirements of the tool. There will be time at the end of the session for Q & A. *Presenters: Andrew Craig and Karl Gesch, WDNR; Anne Nardi and Rebecca Power, UW-Madison, Division of Extension.* **1 Soil & Water Management CEU**

**Breaking the Cycle: Climbing the Ladder of Regenerative Agriculture.** Whether you have just heard the term "Regenerative Agriculture" or you're wondering what the best first step is when trying a land improvement practice on the farm, this session can offer you guidance. *Presenter: Jason Cavadini, Farmer/Agronomist/Assistant Superintendent, UW-Madison, Marshfield Agricultural Research Station.* **1 Soil & Water Management CEU/1 Sustainability CEU**

**Trout Stream Habitat Management in Central WI.** A variety of negative issues are impacting our trout streams in Central Wisconsin, from Emerald Ash Borer, oak wilt and storm damage, to invasive plant species. Our habitat teams take these negative issues and create positive, resilient habitat, both instream and within our riparian corridors. We also log over 4,000 hours of volunteer participation annually to maintain and improve our trout streams. This presentation will define the problems, partners, and positivity that we encounter with each new field season. *Presenter: Shawn Sullivan, WDNR.*

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 4**

11:00-11:45am – **GENERAL SESSION: Patrick Durkin, Outdoor Writer.** Outdoor writer/editor Patrick Durkin began his career in 1983 at the Oshkosh Northwestern newspaper, and at age 65 is still working as a full-time freelancer at the state and national level. Over the course of his career, technological advances have changed how the media reports the news, and how we as consumers take it in. Despite these changes, however, effective reporting and commentary, especially as it relates to conservation stories and issues, will always require one-on-one human connections. There'll be plenty of time for discussion.

12:30-2:00pm – **TECHNICAL ROUNDTABLE #3: COUNTY PRESENTATIONS.** 1) Dan O'Connell, Portage County LWCD: The Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project is a project design to increase the flow and improve the aquatic health of the Little Plover River and help alleviate storm water-driven flooding. 2) Wes

Kotila, Outagamie County LCD: Planning, designing, and installing constructed wetlands in an agricultural environment for nutrient reduction and peak flow catchment in a watershed. 3) Luke Hickey, Outagamie County LCD: Looking at the typical “ditch cleanout” in a stream in an agricultural environment utilizing a the two stage ditch concept which emphasizes reconstructing a base flow channel to carry the 1 or 2 year storm event and then re-establishing the adjacent floodplain for effective erosion control along streams in an agricultural environment. **1 Engineering PDH, 1.5 Soil & Water Management CEU**

#### 1:00-2:00pm – CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Creating Carbon Farming Programs Through Local Partnerships with RCDs.** Conservation Districts in California are working together and building local partnerships to provide solutions to climate change through the development of Carbon Farming Programs. More than 30 RCDs are already developing and implementing carbon farming activities in their districts. These activities include: working with producers to create Carbon Farm Plans, implementing practices, conducting outreach, engaging in the development of county climate action plans, establishing demonstration sites for carbon farming practices, participating in research trials and seeking funding opportunities through local carbon markets and philanthropy. Attendees will learn about the challenges and opportunities for building Carbon Farming Programs at the District level and how a partnership with Organic Valley is helping dairy farmers become part of the solution to climate change. *Presenters include: Pelayo Alvarez, Director of Outreach and Partnerships, Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI); Will Hart, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District; Jessica Luhning, Organic Valley.* **1 Crop Management CEU/1 Sustainability CEU**

**Hate Meetings? Try These Tools to Make Them Effective!** This session will provide information and resources to help participants develop agendas with clear goals and meeting outcomes, as well as provide tools and techniques that participants can utilize while prepping for meetings, or during the meeting to make them run better. Bring your questions! *Presenters: Michelle Scarpace, Joe Bonnell, and Dan Zerr, UW-Madison Division of Extension Natural Resources Institute.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

#### 2:15-3:15pm – CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Northern Lakes Session: Vilas County Lakes Assessment and Current Zebra Mussel Suitability in 30 Lakes in Burnett and Washburn Counties.** So how’s the water in Vilas County? Cathy Higley will show how they used publicly available data on total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and a few other parameters to take a look at what their lakes are doing. They looked for trends within smaller watersheds (HUC 12) and lake types. See how any county could repeat this process for their own lakes and watersheds. Next, Thomas Boisvert, Burnett County, and Lisa Burns, Washburn County, received inquiries into the suitability of area lakes to zebra mussel infestation. They’ll share how new data was gathered and compared to the current suitability outlined in the AIS Smart Prevention Tool. Results will be used to prioritize and control efforts. **1 Professional Development CEU**

**Catalyzing regional forest & wildlife habitat management through cooperative management & landowner engagement in Central Wisconsin.** With our ever growing population, fragmentation and parcelization of our landscape is inevitable and can make achieving regional management goals appear out of reach. Through their project Cooperating for Woods and Wildlife (CFWW), Golden Sands RC&D, a regional conservation non-profit, has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to combat fragmentation and parcelization with cooperative management through the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). The goal of the project is to assist private landowners with the creation of group cooperatives to collectively and

collaboratively address forest health and wildlife habitat across property boundaries. From 2015-2020, with funding through the USFS Landscape Scale Restoration (USFS LSR) grant, Golden Sands RC&D successfully enrolled over 10,000 acres into DMAP and reached 90 new landowners. With their new USFS LSR grant, Golden Sands seeks to increase DMAP participation by 150 landowners and 10,000 acres by 2023. This breakout will provide an overview of the benefits of cooperative management and how the state's DMAP program can be used as a foundation to develop regional cooperative efforts to enhance wildlife habitat, control invasive plants, and conduct collaborative timber sales. *Presenters: Joshua Benes and Hannah Butkiewicz, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council Inc.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

2:15-3:45pm – **TECHNICAL ROUNDTABLE #4: Incorporating Climate Change into Infrastructure Planning and Design.** This talk will begin by briefly reviewing the science behind climate change and then examine why it is inherently challenging, as humans, to prepare for the future, and suggest some methods for communicating this to stakeholders. We'll then then examine uncertainty around climate change and how uncertainty plays a key role in decision making (or lack of decision making) in regards to planning, design, and maintenance of infrastructure. The final part will review common methods for incorporating climate change into infrastructure planning and highlight existing local tools and resources for incorporating climate change into planning and design. *Presenter: Austin Polebitski, Ph.D., UW-Platteville.* **1 Engineering PDH, 1.5 Soil & Water Management CEU**

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

9:00-10:00am – **GENERAL SESSION: GENERATIONS UNMASKED!** Working from home is against company policy. Video conference meetings won't work for us. People working from home are too distracted. Statements like this were common, until we were forced to change, quickly. How the generations are adapting however is quite different. This seminar will provide generational trends, characteristics and most importantly, strategies to provide insight and understanding into the impacts of the pandemic on our workforce. *Presenter: Brad Gingras, Superior Strategies.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

10:30-Noon – **WI Land+Water Annual Business Meeting**