



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Legislative/Administrative Committee

Minutes of the February 14, 2022 Meeting

Meeting called to order by Calkins at 1:02 pm.

- **Roll Call** - All attendees virtual
Committee Members: Kurt Calkins Chair (Columbia), Greg Baneck (Outagamie), Paul Daigle (Marathon), Wes Davis (Rock), Scott Frank (Shawano), Brian Haase (Waupaca), Erin Hanson Vice Chair/Secretary (Door), Amy Piaget (Dane), Russ Rindsig (Barron), Ben Wojahn (Vernon)
WI Land + Water Staff: Christina Anderson, Matt Krueger
Agencies: Coreen Fallat (DATCP) and Mike Gilbertson, Christopher Clayton, Joanna Griffin (DNR)
Other Attendees: Bob Bultman (Door), Shawn Pfaff (contract lobbyist)
- **Adopt Agenda/Additions (2/14/2022)**
MOTION (Davis, Frank) to approve the agenda with Shawn Paff joining at 2:00pm and including Joanna Griffin (DNR) under Agency/Partner reports. Motion carried, no negative vote.
- **Approve Previous Meeting Minutes (12/13/2021)**
MOTION (Rindsig, Wojahn) to approve the Dec. 13, 2021 minutes. Motion carried, no negative vote.
- **Agency/Partner Reports**
Coreen Fallat – DATCP
 - DATCP changes to the grant application are listed on page two and will be covered in a webinar.
 - Waiver requests are waiting to be signed by Office of Secretary.
 - DATCP is meeting with DNR to discuss coordination and recommendations for upcoming federal funding opportunities. They will engage stakeholders in the future.Mike Gilbertson – DNR
 - NR 151 second webinar on agriculture performance standards on Friday 2/11/22 at 9-10am.
 - 30 days for comments on DNR Guidance for Direct Runoff ends on 03/09/22. The intent is to clarify meaning of administrative code.Joanna Griffin – DNR
 - DNR grants timeline is established in code and tied to Joint Allocation Plan process. In the short-term DNR plans to modify the joint allocation plan to reference memos that will include ranked TRM lists and NOD grants. Timeline would stay the same. Committee feedback included gratitude for DNR changes in 2021, county budget timelines, recommending small scale TRM applications follow the same format as NOD, and recognition that the joint allocation plan is a valued communication tool summarizing state funding directed to counties.

- **ATCP 50 Rule Revision Update - DATCP**
DISCUSSION: ATCP 50 revisions scope was approved in October 2021 and DATCP has a stakeholder engagement strategy. A kickoff meeting recording about the process is available on DATCP's YouTube channel. The next meeting about implementation of Targeted Performance Standards for Silurian Bedrock areas will be Feb. 24 at 1:00 pm. Future sessions will be about cost sharing (e.g. rates, thresholds for recording and bidding, administrative, allocation priorities), technical standards, etc. DATCP's timeline to complete the rule revisions is 30 months from September 2021.
- **Update from the Conservation Financial Security Subcommittee**
DISCUSSION: The subcommittee identified the first step in looking at sustained conservation funding is to inventory statutory and non-statutory programs counties are being asked to implement by the state. Conversations are continuing. Vernon County is working with Grasslands 2.0, a UW Madison team, to prepare info-graphics to show value of three county conservation staff positions.
- **Targeted Legislative Field Engagement – Shawn Pfaff**
DISCUSSION: As the legislative session ends, WI Land + Water's focus is on lobbying related to the Clean Water Task Force initiatives. Bills related to nitrates, PACE and Farmland Preservation have broad support. However, even with a \$4.2 billion surplus the biennial budget prohibits additional spending. After the legislative session ends in March efforts can shift to developing and maintaining relationships with key individuals. Late April – mid July would be the time for tours. Fallat can reach out to the DATCP producer-led team and Natural Resource Educators about the event schedule. Pfaff recommends that WI Land + Water set budget priorities by mid-summer.
- **Discuss Updated Policy Making Process (Intake Process & Area Reps)**
DISCUSSION: Next steps related to the proposed changes for the resolution process is to identify communication between Area Associations and the Leg/Adm committee. Options discussed included a designated Area Rep on the Leg/Adm ctte, a written intake form for consistent tracking and communication, and a standing agenda item for each area association (which may not require a designated area rep). Also outreach to increase LCC participation on the Leg/Adm ctte.
- **Discuss Status of Wisconsin Nonpoint Program (2002-2022)**
DISCUSSION: Twenty years after the redesign of WI's nonpoint program is a good time to discuss improvements necessary to achieve the program's goals and the role of county land conservation departments. A broad perspective is needed along with a framework to keep the conversation on track. **March 14 at 1:00 pm was selected for continuing the discussion** with the Leg/Adm ctte.
- **Legislative updates**
DISCUSSION: See agenda for WI Land + Water positions on specific proposals. Also:
 - SB968: Pilot pay for performance project in the Fenwood Creek Watershed, \$607,000/yr and from the environmental fund. WI Land + Water has registered in favor.
 - AB894 external peer review process for review of rulemaking:
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/proposals/sb894>
 - Federal "climate smart commodities" announced last week. WI Land + Water is tracking.
- **Adjourn, MOTION** (Haase, Piaget) to adjourn at 3:35 pm.