



# NORTH CENTRAL AREA

## Land and Water Conservation Association

Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood

Meeting Date: 8/25/23

**Meeting Location:** Summer Tour – Hosted by Forest County

**In Attendance:** Scott Goodwin – Florence County, Steve Kircher – Forest County, Kayla Littleton – Forest County, Sandy Beauchaine – Forest County, Chris Arrowood – Langlade County, Katie Bender-Ream – Langlade County, Jordan Bahr-Bender – Langlade County, Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County, Linnaea Newman – Oneida County, Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County, Kendra Kundinger – Wood County, Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, Quita Sheehan – Vilas County, Richard Logan – Vilas County.

**Counties Present:** Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Wood, Oneida, Vilas

**Others Present:** Betsy Doolittle – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. Steve Kircher called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.
2. Introductions were done of those in attendance.
3. Approval of Agenda.
  - a. **A motion to approve the agenda as presented: Scott Goodwin – Florence County, Seconded by Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County**
    - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
4. Approval of 5/16/23 meeting minutes.
  - a. **A motion to approve the 5/16/23 meeting minutes: Scott Goodwin – Florence County, Seconded by Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County**
    - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
5. Secretary's Report
  - a. Tom Boisvert informed the group that he is the NCLWCA representative to the Legislative/Administrative Committee for WI Land+Water. As such, he will try and inform the group of various topics that are discussed within this committee. That said, Tom was unable to attend the last Leg/Admin meeting and asked Carolyn to provide a brief update since she was there.
  - b. Carolyn stated that the majority of the meeting centered on the state budget as WI Land+Water did not obtain the funding/support that was originally anticipated for County Land Conservation Departments.
  - c. Tom stated that the Wisconsin Wetlands Association is gaining traction with a proposed grant program that would promote using wetlands as a flooding mitigation tool.
  - d. No other significant Leg/Admin news at this time.
6. By-Law Amendment Discussion

- a. Proposed by-law changes were drafted by Tom Boisvert to reflect a previous motion made by Carolyn Scholl. As such, Tom gave an overview of the update and stated that no comments or concerns were received since the draft amendment was sent out. No concerns or comments were brought forth at the meeting.
- b. **A motion to amend the NCLWCA by-laws as proposed: Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, Seconded by Shane Wucherpennig – Wood County**
  - i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

7. Treasurer's Report

- a. Kirk Langfoss was not present, but provided the report below.
- b. Let me start by saying: "The financial state of our Association is strong". We have a current balance in our checking account of **\$8,864.14**. Our 2023 approved budget projects a year-end balance of **\$7,477.09**, so we are well above that at this time. We also have **\$5,103.73** in a CD with BMO Bank
- c. At the time of my last report, at our spring Association meeting, we had a balance of **\$9,173.14**. Since then, we have only incurred four expenses. **\$300.00** for renewal of our Liability Insurance Policy, and three monthly expenses of **\$3.00** each (**\$9.00** total) for BMO Bank paper Checking Account Statements.
- d. The only additional expenses we should incur for 2023 are as follows: 1) The expense of the Summer Meeting and Tour, for which we have **\$750.00** budgeted; with an estimated meeting/tour registration revenue of **\$500.00**, for a net expense of **\$250.00**. 2) The expense for paper Checking Account Statements for August - December from BMO Bank, a total expense of **\$15.00**. 3) The expense of the Annual Report for the WI Department of Financial Institutions (DFI), a **\$25.00** expense. And 4) The expense to update the Registered Agent with the DFI, a **\$15.00** expense.
- e. We also have budgeted line items for the following expenses, but I don't anticipate these expenses to occur this year: **\$750.00** for WI Land + Water Delegate, **\$250.00** for NACD National Meeting Stipend, **\$100.00** for NACD Regional Meeting Stipend.
- f. If you would like to see my bookkeeping spreadsheet, please contact me and I will email you a pdf copy.
- g. One other recent development I would like to bring to your attention is an email and memo that Area Association coordinators and officers around the state received from Matt Krueger with WI Land + Water on July 20, 2023. Interestingly, this is a matter that I actually brought to Matt's attention some time ago. It is regarding Area Associations, as independent financial entities, being subject to certain financial reporting requirements by the Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as well as the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI), including registering with the IRS as a tax-exempt organization, tax-exempt status annual filing with the IRS, and annual report filing with the DFI. WI Land + Water will be hosting a virtual "office hours" session on Thursday, September 14, 2023 to discuss these matters. Area Association coordinators, officers, and board representatives have been invited to join WI Land + Water and its accountant at this meeting, but Area Association treasurers are the key target audience. I plan to attend this meeting. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me.

8. President's Report

- a. No specific report available.

9. Youth Education Update

- a. Patty Benedict was not present, but provided the report. Steve Kircher summarized the report.

- b. Poster and Speaking Contests
  - i. The 2024 theme is "May the Forest Be With You Always".
  - ii. Forms and guidelines will be shared when available.
- c. WI Envirothon
  - i. Sun Prairie east High School's team took first place and represented Wisconsin at the 2023 NCF-Envirothon at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada. The event was July 23-29.
  - ii. Please consider including a \$55 contribution (or more) in your budgets for the WI Envirothon.
- d. Conservation Camps
  - i. The middle school camp for students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 was held June 14-17, 2023 at Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells. There were 52 campers at this event.
  - ii. The high school camp for students entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 was held June 19-22, 2023 at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters. Seventeen campers attended this event.
- e. Silent Auction
  - i. It's never too early to start gathering items!
  - ii. Silent Auction proceeds support youth education programs: WI Envirothon, Poster and Speaking Contests, and two Conservation Camps.

#### 10. 2024 Annual Conference Sessions Discussion

- a. Carolyn Scholl gave an update regarding the next WI Land+Water conference. The 2024 conference will be held in Green Bay this coming year in early March. Some potential topics at the conference include: wetland management, hydrological restoration, watershed management, grazing management, promoting pollinator projects, and several others.
- b. Carolyn also stated that since the resolution process has now been removed from the WI Land+Water conference that it is proposed to take the area meeting time slot away.
  - i. Discussion occurred at the meeting, and the general consensus was that this was a ok as that meeting isn't truly needed.

#### 11. County Updates

- a. Florence County
  - i. Scott Goodwin gave an update.
  - ii. The Florence County CBCW program is wrapping up for the summer.
  - iii. Florence County staff monitored approximately 20 lakes this summer season.
  - iv. A culvert survey is still underway in the County. This work is being completed with the help of a LIDAR scanner.
  - v. For cost-share, Scott is working on a culvert project and a boat landing erosion control project.
- b. Forest County
  - i. Steve Kircher gave an update.
  - ii. Kayla completed a cost-share project in the northern part of Forest County. This project involved shoreline stabilization/restoration.
  - iii. The purple loosestrife biocontrol program was a success this year. Multiple partners collaborated with Forest County on a mass rearing cage.
- c. Langlade County
  - i. Chris Arrowood gave an update.

- ii. Two new conservation staff for Langlede County are being trained. Chris is excited to have additional staffing given the needs of their department.
  - iii. Nutrient management planning, farmland preservation, and cost-share are the main programs Langlede County is working on at this time.
- d. Lincoln County
  - i. Tom Boisvert gave an update.
  - ii. Cost-share projects planned for this year include: 9 well decommissioning's, 1 grazing project, 2 shoreline stabilizations, and 1 gutter/outlet project. Several projects may be carried into the following year.
  - iii. AIS program was very successful this year, and it was great to have two LTE's to complete this work. The AIS and CBCW activities will be coming to an end next week.
  - iv. Purple loosestrife biocontrol was very successful. This was the first year Lincoln County had a mass rearing cage. Beetles were released throughout the County.
- e. Marathon County
  - i. No update available.
- f. Oneida County
  - i. Michele Sadauskas gave an update.
  - ii. Oneida County recently hosted their annual AIS Awards Banquet. This banquet honors all of the work volunteers do in regards to AIS, water quality, and related activities. There was great attendance at this event by the public and LCC members.
  - iii. The department has a new bat monitor that is being used heavily by a local volunteer. The data being collected will be used to monitor population trends and flight characteristics.
  - iv. Mussel monitoring is being completed again this year. There is a concern that a whole lake herbicide treatment for AIS may have caused a decrease in mussel populations in a certain stream. Mussel data appears to show this when looking at past years' data.
  - v. The AIS program has been very successful. LTE staff are wrapping up for the season. CBCW, lake monitoring, and purple loosestrife biocontrol were some of the main focusses of the program.
- g. Portage County
  - i. No update available.
- h. Vilas County
  - i. Carolyn Scholl gave an update.
  - ii. The AIS program was successful and is wrapping up for the season.
  - iii. The County hosted an AIS picnic event. There was good attendance at this event, and there are hopes that it will continue to grow in future years.
  - iv. Many landowners are getting involved in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program.
  - v. Vilas County may be submitting an application for a Surface Water Grant. The focus of this grant would be strategic priority protection planning for high quality lakes and rivers. Carolyn would be hoping to get an LTE for this grant if it is awarded.
- i. Wood County
  - i. Shane Wucherpennig gave an update.
  - ii. Kendra Kunding was recently hired with Wood County. She brings AIS experience with her from Golden Sands RC&D and will be championing the Wood County AIS Program. The LMPN funds for Wood County are planned to be utilized by the County directly for the upcoming season.

- iii. Kendra will also be focusing on nutrient management planning, cover crops, and other soil health practices.
- iv. Wood County applied for a SEG innovations grant. The innovations grant would focus on the use of vegetated treatment areas.
- v. Wood County reapplied for their 9KE project. This would be the fourth year of this project. The grant award is approximately \$600,000.

12. Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Report

- a. No report available.

13. Agency Reports

- a. Betsy Doolittle gave an update for NRCS.
- b. Staffing needs are increasing in order to handle all of the IRA funding that is coming into the agency. There are currently several openings throughout the state.
- c. NRCS conservation staffing agreements are a great opportunity for Counties to partner with NRCS.
- d. November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the sign up deadline for NRCS programming such as EQIP.

14. Other Business

- a. Tom Boisvert asked what each County requests in bond funding on the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) grant application.
  - i. Florence requests \$50,000-\$100,000
  - ii. Forest request \$20,000
  - iii. Langlade requests \$40,000
  - iv. Lincoln requests \$100,000
  - v. Oneida requests \$50,000
  - vi. Vilas requests \$45,000
  - vii. Wood requests \$150,000
- b. From conversations, it appears that DATCP generally awards the same amount for each County Department regardless of requested amount.

15. Adjourn at 1:45 p.m.

- 1. **Motion to adjourn: Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, seconded by Chris Arrowood – Langlade County.**
  - a. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

**Next meeting:**

Planning Meeting/Area Poster & Speaking Contest (Hosted by Oneida County). Date/time is TBD.

<b>Host</b>			
	<b>Planning Meeting/ Area Poster &amp; Speaking Contest January/February</b>	<b>Virtual Spring Meeting May/June</b>	<b>Summer tour/Meeting August/September</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>	<b>FOREST</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>	<b>VILAS</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>	<b>WOOD</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>
<b>2026</b>	<b>VILAS</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>
<b>2027</b>	<b>WOOD</b>	<b>FOREST</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>
<b>2028</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>
<b>2029</b>	<b>FOREST</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>	<b>VILAS</b>
<b>2030</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>	<b>WOOD</b>
<b>2031</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>
<b>2032</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER ALPHABETICAL</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER</b>

Minutes taken and prepared by Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, NCLWCA Secretary

**Beyond the Business Meeting:**

This business meeting was held in conjunction with the Summer Tour, hosted by Forest County. The meeting was held at Veterans Memorial Park in Crandon, WI.

**Topics/activities of the summer tour included:**

- a. A tour/presentation of Potawatomi Farms
  - a. This farm showcased aquaponics, rotational grazing, hoop houses, and a sugarbush operation.
  - b. Funding for the facility was also discussed. Both tribal and grant funding was utilized in the creation of these facilities.
- b. A tour/presentation of the Mole Lake fish hatchery
  - a. This hatchery showcased the process for raising and releasing extended growth walleye into the Ceded Territory.
  - b. Funding for the facilities was also discussed. Nearly all expenses were grant funded.