



## SOUTHERN AREA LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

**Columbia**      **Green**      **Richland**  
**Dane**          **Iowa**        **Rock**  
**Dodge**        **Jefferson**   **Sauk**  
**Grant**         **Lafayette**

Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
9:30am-12:30pm  
Columbia County Administration Building, Rooms 113-115  
112 E Edgewater St, Portage, WI 53901  
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87956278364>  
Meeting ID: 879 5627 8364 Call in #: 1-312-626-6799

### AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order
2. Roll call of counties
3. Approval of agenda January 29, 2025
4. Review and approval of previous meeting minutes October 28, 2024
5. Treasurer's report
6. WLW Committee Updates
  - a. Health & Conservation
  - b. Leg/Admin
  - c. Public Outreach
  - d. PIC
  - e. Technical
  - f. Youth Education
7. WLW BOD Updates
8. Agency/Partner updates
9. Local Policy Input - H & H Study
10. Break
11. "Get to Know Me a Skittle" Game
12. Networking Roundtables - Hear what other counties have been up to
13. Upcoming Events - Communications Training, Canva Training
14. Adjourn - Lunch & Poster Judging

# Southern Area Land and Water Conservation Association Unapproved Minutes

**Date:** Monday October 28, 2024    **Time:** 9:30 am  
**Location:** Lussier Family Heritage Center, Madison WI and virtual

Board of Directors					
Columbia		Dane		Dodge	
<input type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff 2	<input type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff
Grant		Green		Iowa	
<input type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff
Jefferson		Lafayette		Richland	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LCC 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff
Rock		Sauk			
<input type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff 2		
Non-voting Participants					
Jake Dickmann-DNR		Kelli Myers-WLW			
Floreal Crubaugh- AFT		Chelsea Zegler-Extension			

1. **Call meeting to order:** Meeting was called to order by Chair Schlupp at 9:35 a.m.
2. **Roll call of counties:** 16 directors present
3. **Approval of October 28, 2024 agenda:** Jefferson made a motion to approve the agenda. Dodge seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of September 6, 2024 minutes:** Dane made a motion to approve the minutes. Green seconded. Motion carried.
5. **Treasurer's report:** there was no change since the September meeting. Current balance is \$7,330.94. Southern Area tour bus and SAA meeting food expenses have not been paid yet and will be reflected at the next meeting.
6. **Approval of 2025 Budget:** Balance will be closer to \$5500 after expenses. Discussion of budget items and Envirothon scholarship (charge is \$140 per team plus ~\$175 travel/lodging expenses). Expenses for bus, meeting food, and training were reduced and Envirothon scholarship was added. We will re-evaluate dues and

other income potential for 2026. With changes, total 2025 expenses budget is \$3457.00. Columbia made a motion to approve the 2025 budget with those changes. Rock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. **Approval of 2025 Meeting Dates:** Best availability is Wednesday January 29, Monday May 12, and Thursday October 30. Time will be 9:30am-12:30pm. Dane made a motion to approve the meeting dates. Dodge seconded the motion. Motion carried.
8. **Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw Changes:** discussion of changing quorum language in Article VI #1 and 2; and Article VII (plus one minor change). Jefferson made a motion to approve the Bylaws changes as discussed. Richland seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Winter Training Ideas**  
Discussion of training ideas. Excel training was removed due to cost. We will work with Kristin from WLW for Canva training, likely in April. Communications training with Sauk Co staff will likely be in February.
10. **Tour de SAA Trivia:** participants took part in a trivia game
11. **WI Land & Water (WLW) Committee Updates**
  - a. *Health & Conservation:* Katie Abbott gave updates. It is a newer committee of health and conservation depts; last meeting they went over ARPA well compensation results and the need to update eligibility requirements for the regular well compensation program.
  - b. *Leg/Admin:* Melissa Schlupp presented updates. Last meeting included budget priorities, DATCP's budget request, and discussion about difficulties working with DNR.
  - c. *Public Outreach:* Katie Abbott gave an update on workbook and boot camp planning that is underway; hoping for implementation in 2025.
  - d. *Professional Improvement:* Melissa Schlupp provided an update from Tony Reali: the last meeting focused on conference planning, which will be held March 5-7 in Green Bay. 2026 will be in Wisconsin Dells. Raffle tickets that benefit scholarship program are available to sell- contact Kelli Myers.
  - e. *Technical:* Shawn Esser provided an update. There are some new members; he is also part of the NRCS State Tech Committee. They provided comments on NR320 permits; the fall Tech Tour was in Chippewa County in October; they are helping with conference planning.
  - f. *Youth Education:* Briana Enger provided an update: poster/speaking due Fri Jan 24 to Columbia; trying to use online voting. Speaking contest will be

January 29, and poster contest Jan 30. It would be nice to have more counties participate in speaking contest. WLW is working on Spanish version of registration forms. SAA counties raised over \$2,000 at the silent auction last year; let's try to break this record! Reach out to Briana for help with speaking contest or getting donations. (ex. Google "[companies name] donation request" for larger companies; some are more likely to donate if asked in Jan or Feb). Contact Haillie Passow if able to volunteer during auction. Sauk and Dane offer conservation camp scholarships; Dane also provides some gear; we should all try to share FB posts about the camps. Envirothon April 11 will focus on forest stewardship; 2025 Envirothon optional county dues increased to \$65.

**12. WI Land & Water Board of Directors Updates:** Amy Piaget provided updates: discussion/review of committee's guiding principles; working on strategic plan implementation; helping counties to work with their state legislators and build connections; discussion of summer NACD conference in Milwaukee, encourage folks to attend. WLW still has free Canva accounts for Counties (reach out to Kristin Teston). Farm Family of the Year award changed to video instead of hosting Conservation Observance Day. They hope the change will result in more nominations. WLW has a new climate position and office manager.

**13. Agency/Partner updates:**

*Chelsea Zegler- Extension Ag & Water Quality program:* The program focuses more on outcomes rather than practices, and has 5 outreach staff in different regions of the state. Chelsea is leaving in 2 weeks to work on ag sustainability for the private sector. They are an outreach branch of discovery farms and other UW water quality research. Main programs include soil test phosphorus project, nitrate leaching, and demo of mini lysimeters under root zone on four farms. WI Water and Soil Health conference in December; some agenda items include prairie strips, N cycling with cover crops, and agronomist key note. Their staff should be invited to other area meetings; also has newsletter and website. Counties will be able to submit presentation proposals for the conference next year.

*Jake Dickmann- DNR South Central Region Nonpoint Source Coordinator:* Jason Knutson is new director for watershed management program; covers stormwater, CAFO, & nonpoint; Jess Schoen starts Nov 18 (replacing Karl Gesch), will be working on nonpoint policy and outreach. Claire O'Connell CAFO specialist moved to env. enforcement; working on getting position posted. DNR is working on nutrient reduction strategy (point and nonpoint pollution); plan is due to EPA Dec 2025. Also working on internal, 5-year Nonpoint Source Program management plan, which is required for 319 funds, also due Dec 2025.

14. **Local Policy Input:** Abbott brought up issue with H&H requirements on projects in floodway in AE floodplain; discussion of past and current process and working with zoning and engineer associations. Katie Abbott and Andrew Baker will work on filling out local policy form and will bring a draft for review to a future meeting.

15. **County Projects**

- a. Shawn Esser gave a presentation on an enforcement case in Dane County. Based on a complaint, they found a muddy earthen lot along a trout stream and tributary, with unlimited livestock access to stream, no diversions, and a manure stack in WQMA. BARNY and APLE-Lots had very different P loss estimates. The process took about 4 years and a lot of staff time, including interim practices, compliance deadlines that were missed, an attempted water quality trade, citations, and a court hearing that ended in a settlement. It is now owned by new landowners that are putting in a rotational grazing system with fewer cattle. Discussion: citations work to motivate willing landowners but need court interaction to force a stubborn person; consult with corp counsel from the start.
- b. Floreal Crubaugh gave a presentation on American Farmland Trust and the Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership Program: overview of AFT mission/goals, which includes protecting farmland; statistics on loss of farmland, economic impacts, age trends, and program funding. Many partners teamed up and received \$7 million from RCPP; project area in southern and central WI; consists of easements, land management, outreach, and demo sites. Provided progress info and example of programs. Floreal has materials she can share. Upcoming webinar on Tues Nov 12 on economic impacts of farmland protection (11am-12:30); non-operating owner workshop on January 10 w/ Sauk Co.

16. **Lussier Family Heritage Center Prairie Tour-** skipped due to lack of time

17. **Adjourn:** Jefferson moved to adjourn. Green seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

### Local Policy Input Intake Form

Please use the following form to submit local policy issues your area agrees is a priority and needs state level support to work through. The information collected on this form will allow the WI Land+Water Executive Director and President understand the issue and direct to the appropriate committee.

**Which area association member should be included in committee discussion of this local policy issue (all area association leaders will be invited)?** Katie Abbott and/or Andrew Baker

**In two paragraphs or less, please summarize the local policy issue of concern.**

DNR and FEMA have recently begun strictly enforcing a rule that Counties must require a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study (H&H) for any floodplain permits in an AE floodplain. This is a policy shift; in the past DNR has allowed and trusted counties to make judgment calls on H&H needs. FEMA has threatened to revoke flood insurance for the entire County if we don't comply, which would impact the ability for homeowners to get mortgages. This is cost-prohibitive for most landowners and is stopping good projects from happening.

**Briefly provide any relevant background information on the issue (include links to supporting material, if needed).**

An engineering firm indicated that an H&H costs \$2,500-15,000, depending on how much data there is to start with. In many cases, the H&H would cost more than the practice itself. We estimate over 25% of Iowa County perennial stream mileage has an AE floodplain. This issue may be more pronounced in counties that have multiple PL566 dam structures because each structure has a breach analysis that would be classified as an AE floodplain.

Iowa County has lost five projects in the last six months because this requirement is cost prohibitive for landowners. Overzealous regulation may cause landowners to do things without a permit and without technical guidance/support, which will be more detrimental to the waterbody.

Iowa County conservation and zoning staff had a call with DNR floodplain and engineering staff, and we were told there are no exceptions. There is not a "no-rise checklist" option like we have with A floodplains. The only pathway we were offered is to show FEMA quantitative data from case studies that document no impact, which may "open a door to discussion." The DATCP H&H position could help, but that is one person statewide so they would only be able to provide help for a small percentage of projects.

**What is the reason for bringing forward this local policy issue?**

This issue is bigger than just one County or one Area. Because this is a statewide issue that significantly impacts counties' ability to get conservation on the ground, it seems to make the most sense for a WI Land+Water staff and/or committee to take this on.

**What is the outcome for this local policy issue that is sought? (change to legislation, policy, operation, administration, funding, etc.)**

We would like something for AE floodplains similar to the “no-rise” checklist used for A floodplains, or some other method to give counties the ability to make a reasonable judgement call. Otherwise, counties and landowners will need much more financial and capacity support to be able to complete H&H studies affordably. SWRM cost-share for engineering services cannot exceed 70% of the engineering costs or 15% of the total eligible costs of the practice, whichever is less (ATCP 50.40(7)(c)). For example, with a \$5000 stream crossing, only \$750 would be eligible for an engineering services payment, so hiring private engineers for this service would be too expensive for all but the largest projects.

**What are the fiscal implications of this outcome, as it relates to counties or the state (if any)?**

This would save landowners tens of thousands of dollars, and allow good projects to be installed. Costs would only increase if we need more internal capacity to run H&H studies.

**What are the political implications of pursuing this outcome?**

We don't think there should be any negative impact. If anything there should be a positive impact from improving service to farmers. This rule also reduces our ability to implement NR151 and ATCP50 statutes and phosphorus reductions through MDV or WQT programs.

**Which entity or entities are implicated? (organizations, agencies, Legislature, Governor's office, etc.)**

DNR, FEMA, County floodplain zoning officials, WI Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, & Coastal Management (WAFSCM)

**Next Steps:** Your responses will be emailed to WI Land+Water Executive Director. In consultation with the WI Land+Water President, your responses will be forwarded to the appropriate committee. The following questions will be considered by the committee prior to holding a meeting with the identified area association members bringing this issue forward.

**Committee Vetting Questions**

- Does acting on the issue fit within WI Land+Water's mission?
- Does acting on this issue fit within the committee's guiding principles?
- Has WI Land+Water or the committee acted on this issue before? If so, how?
- Has it been addressed within our guiding principles, policy position papers, or budget/legislative priorities or advocacy efforts?
- Has a clear reason and desired outcome been articulated for bringing this local policy issue forward?
- What is the priority of this issue?
- Which entity (or entities) have authority over achieving the desired outcome of the local policy issue in question?
- Is the desired outcome reasonable? Is it achievable?
- Would acting on the issue have potential political consequences?