NORTH CENTRAL AREA LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION – Meeting Minutes

Forest, Florence, Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, & Wood Counties

Kirstie Heidenreich, President
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NORTH CENTRAL AREA LAND & WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Meeting Date: 5/13/25

Meeting Location: Virtual Spring Meeting – Hosted by Wood County

In Attendance: Kayla Littleton – Forest County, Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County, Kirk Langfoss – Marathon County, Kirstie Heidenreich – Marathon County, Laurie Miskimins – Marathon County, Mike Ritter – Marathon County, Barb Peeters – Wood County, Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County, Tim Hovendick – Wood County, Cathy Higley – Vilas County, Quita Sheehan – Vilas County, Janell Wehr – Portage County, Tracy Arnold – Portage County, Andrew Senderhauf – Portage County, Tyler Kunz – Portage County, Camryn Brewbaker – Portage County, Shawna Dishaw – Florence County

Counties Present: Forest, Florence, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties

Others Present: Kelli Myers – WI Land+Water, Alex Elias – DATCP, Mark Witecha – DATCP, Ben Uvaas – WDNR, Brad Johnson – WDNR, Cindy Koperski – WDNR, Crystal VonHoldt – WDNR, Joe Bonnell – WDNR, Liz Usborne – WDNR, Mark Kaczorowski – WDNR, Nicole Hays – WDNR, Peggy Winter – NRCS

1. Kirstie Heidenreich called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. Introductions were done of those in attendance.
3. Approval of Agenda.
    a. **A motion to approve the agenda as presented: Tracy Arnold – Portage County, Seconded by Kirk Langfoss – Marathon County**
        i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
4. Approval of 1/30/25 meeting minutes.
    a. **A motion to approve the minutes as presented: Tracy Arnold – Portage County, seconded by Barb Peeters – Wood County**
        i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
5. WI Land+Water Conservation Board Report
    a. Since the last Board meeting was held at the annual conference, there are no further updates at this time.
6. Elections
    a. Election of LCC Representative to WI Land+Water Board of Directors
    b. **A motion to nominate Mike Ritter as the LCC representative to the WI Land+Water Board of Directors: Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, seconded by Tracy Arnold – Portage County.**
        i. **No other nominations received. Mike Ritter accepted his nomination.**
        ii. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

7. Agency Updates and Discussion:
    a. WI Land+Water:
        i. Kelli Myers, Conservation Training & Membership Services Manager, provided a verbal update.
        ii. Kelli and Matt Krueger met with Area Association officers to ensure they are utilizing the organizational structure well. It was discussed that partner coordination is important and Area Associations are encouraged to continue inviting agency partners.
        iii. WI Land+Water is working with the WDNR on multiple training opportunities. These will be one-day trainings, and 4 trainings will be held across the state. The closest for our area will be held in Rhinelander on Thursday, July 10.
        iv. WI Land+Water is promoting silvopasture training.
        v. New renewable energy handouts are on the WI Land+Water website. These are designed to answer questions related to large solar and wind energy projects.
        vi. Middle and High School Conservation Camp registration closes this Friday.
    b. DATCP (Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection):
        i. Mark Witecha, Soil and Watershed Conservation Section Manager, gave a presentation on DATCP's nutrient management programming. See attached presentation for details.
        ii. Alex Elias, DATCP Liaison, provided a verbal update.
        iii. Various engineering positions are being posted and filled as qualified applicants are received.
        iv. The SWRM master contract will be sent out soon.
        v. DATCP is watching the State's budget process closely.
    c. WDNR (WI Dept. of Natural Resources):
        i. Joe Bonnell, Nutrient Reduction Strategy Coordinator, provided a presentation on Wisconsin's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. See attached presentation for details.
        ii. Ben Uvaas, Ag Nonpoint Source Implementation Coordinator, provided a presentation on the WDNR's NOD Program. See attached presentation for details.
        iii. Brad Johnson, NR Basin Supervisor, introduced Mark Kaczorowki as the new regional nonpoint source coordinator.
        iv. Crystal VonHoldt, Waterways Program Policy Coordinator, provided an update. Since there are many new Water Management Specialists in the State, the WDNR is placing a heavy focus on staff training at this time.
        v. Other WDNR staff in attendance: Cindy Koperski (Water Resources Management Specialist), Liz Usborne (Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator), Mark Kaczorowki (Regional CAFO Specialist), Nicole Hays (Water Management Specialist)
    d. d. NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
        i. Peggy Winter (District Conservationist) provided a verbal update.
        ii. June 12 is the local work group meeting. This meeting allows partners to provide input relating to funding priorities in the area. Each local work group can choose different priorities, and thus projects may be ranked accordingly.
        iii. Updates were provided for various NRCS programming and current staffing levels.
        iv. In the future, funding is expected to be more competitive without the influx of IRA funding.
8. Treasurer's Report: Kirk Langfoss (NCLWCA Treasurer)
    a. Kirk presented the 2026 budget. It was noted that there are new expenses for professional services and new scholarship opportunities.

b. 2026 Budget Approval
c. **Motion to accept the 2026 budget as presented: Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, seconded by Kayla Littleton – Forest County.**
    i. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

9. Upcoming Events/Programming:
    a. Possible Area Association Trainings in 2025 (and Beyond?)
        i. OHWM & Navigability Training with DNR
            1. Tom Boisvert stated that a training is currently being planned for OHWM and Navigability training with the WDNR. The WDNR is still finalizing details on their end at this time. The training will be hosted by Lincoln County.
        ii. Possible need for Canva training in our Area?
            1. Multiple Counties in attendance voiced support for a Canva training in our area. Officers will work with Kristin Teston to organize this.
        iii. Format for (2026) North Central Area Association Youth Conservation Camp Scholarships
            1. Tom Boisvert shared the draft scholarship forms. The selection committee is still to be determined at this time.
        iv. Format for (2026) North Central Area Association LCC Scholarship for Annual Conference
            1. Tom Boisvert shared the draft scholarship form. The selection committee is still to be determined at this time.
    b. 2025 Meetings:
        i. Summer Tour & Meeting (Tentative date: August 15, 2025) Host: Lincoln Co.
10. Youth Education Updates: Caleb Armstrong (Youth Education Committee Area Representative)
    a. A written update was provided by Caleb. Please see the attached document for more details.
11. County Updates:
    a. Portage
        i. Lots of grants including the NOPP and NWQI (nitrate and phosphorous leaching).
        ii. Completing a groundwater management plan, groundwater studies, and a solar study with WNGHS converting potato fields to solar fields.
        iii. Growing the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program.
        iv. Updating lots of lake management plans.
        v. Updating shoreline surveys via an online application that was developed by Sauk County.
    b. Wood
        i. Non-metallic mining program has been busy.
        ii. AARPA funds are being used for nitrate groundwater testing.
        iii. Harvestable buffers are being implemented and cost-shared.
        iv. Tree and shrub sale was completed again this year.
    c. Oneida
        i. Stream crossing project is going in with the Town of Newbold. Relationships with Town partners have improved following the comprehensive stream crossing survey.
        ii. Northwood's Lights Out event is continuing for its second year with multiple new partners.
    d. Vilas
        i. New Shoreline owner outreach is being completed. There were over 1,000 new shoreline owners within the last year.
        ii. Working on the Directed Lakes program.
        iii. Surface Water Grant was received to supplement CBCW efforts with towels and ice packs.

iv. Decontamination unit is up and running and stationed at lakes with spiny waterflea.
v. Working with Highway Department and townships to control invasive Phragmites.

e. Forest
   i. Non-metallic mining program has been busy. Working to update existing reclamation plans.
   ii. New technician will be starting soon.
   iii. Annual native plant sale was successful.
   iv. Sponsored one scholarship for the middle school camp.
   v. Multiple shoreline projects are going in this year.
   vi. Several Purple Loosestrife cages have been set up for this year. This is a partnership with Vilas County and the FLOW program.

f. Florence
   i. Hoping to have a new technician hired in early June.
   ii. Working with the Zoning Department to resolve violations through shoreland zoning.
   iii. Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is starting for the year.
   iv. Working with landowners on several shoreline projects.

g. Marathon
   i. Currently working to seed a 60-acre prairie surrounding municipal well heads. The Village of Athens will be making rental payments to keep this in prairie and out of farmland. Another municipality may be interested in the same thing.

h. Langlade: No update available.

12. Other Business
    a. None
13. Adjourn at 12:10 p.m.
    1. **Motion to adjourn: Tracy Arnold – Portage County, seconded by Barb Peeters – Wood County.**
       a. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

Host County			
	Planning Meeting/ Area Poster & Speaking Contest January/February	**Virtual Spring Meeting May/June**	**Summer tour/Meeting August/September**
2025	PORTAGE	WOOD	LINCOLN
2026	VILAS	FLORENCE	MARATHON
2027	WOOD	FOREST	ONEIDA
2028	FLORENCE	LANGLADE	PORTAGE
2029	FOREST	LINCOLN	VILAS
2030	LANGLADE	MARATHON	WOOD
2031	LINCOLN	ONEIDA	FLORENCE
2032	MARATHON	PORTAGE	FOREST
2032	ONEIDA	VILAS	LANGLADE
2033	REPEAT ORDER ALPHABETICAL	REPEAT ORDER ALPHABETICAL	REPEAT ORDER ALPHABETICAL

Elected and Appointed Terms		
Role	**Individual**	**Term/Appointment Expiration**
President	Kirstie Heidenreich	April 18th, 2026
Vice President	Linnaea Newman	April 18th, 2026
Treasurer	Kirk Langfoss	April 18th, 2026
Secretary	Tom Boisvert	April 18th, 2026
LCC Rep. WI Land+Water BOD	Mike Ritter	May 13th, 2027
LCC Alt. Rep. WI Land+Water BOD	Linnaea Newman	April 18th, 2026
LCD Rep. WI Land+Water BOD	Tom Boisvert	April 18th, 2026
LCD Alt. Rep. WI Land+Water BOD	Tracy Arnold	April 18th, 2026