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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Linnaea Newman, Vice President
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Kirk Langfoss, Treasurer
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Tom Boisvert, Secretary
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Meeting Date: 7/26/24

Meeting Location: Summer Tour – Hosted by Langlade County

In Attendance: Kayla Littleton – Forest County, Scott Goode – Forest County, Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Linnaea Newman – Oneida County, Kirk Langfoss – Marathon County, Kirstie Heidenreich – Marathon County, Matt Repking – Marathon County, Caleb Armstrong – Marathon County, Chris Arrowood – Langlade County, Katie Bahr-Bender – Langlade County, Amber Ryan – Langlade County

Counties Present: Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida

Others Present: Kelli Myers – WI Land+Water

1. Kirstie Heidenreich called the meeting to order at 1:26 p.m.
    a. Introductions were done of those in attendance.
2. Approval of Agenda.
    a. A motion to approve the agenda as presented: Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Seconded by Chris Arrowood – Langlade County
        i. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.
3. Approval of 4/18/24 meeting minutes.
    a. A motion to approve the minutes as presented: Linnaea Newman – Oneida County, seconded by Kayla Littleton – Forest County
        i. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.
4. Secretary's Report
    a. Tom Boisvert stated that other than normal secretarial duties such as completing minutes there is nothing new to report. Boisvert recommended that this agenda item is removed in the future. If a report is needed, it can always be added to the agenda at that time.
5. Treasurer's Report
    a. Kirk Langfoss provided a report.
    b. Kirk noted that our association's finances are strong, and that we have continued to increase our balance annually. Due to this, Kirk suggested that the association should consider ways to use the funds we receive more frequently.
        i. Kirstie Heidenreich thought some of these funds could potentially be used for hosting trainings within our area. After discussion, it was determined that this may be explored further when developing the next budget.

ii. Tom Boisvert recommended that the association may want to consider sponsoring the WI Land+Water Conservation Camps by offering a scholarship. After discussion, it was determined that this may be explored further when developing the next budget.

6. President's Report
    a. Kirstie Heidenreich recommended that this agenda item is removed in the future. If a report is needed, it can always be added to the agenda at that time.
    b. Kirstie mentioned that the LCC training that was held in Wausau had great attendance and was well received. Kirstie mentioned to continue promoting these trainings to LCC's in our member counties.
        i. Kelli Myers mentioned that future LCC training opportunities will be held virtually this fall. Dates for these trainings will be coming out soon.
7. State Land and Water Conservation Board Elections
    a. Kirstie Heidenreich gave an overview of the difference between the State Land and Water Board and the WI Land+Water Board of Directors.
    b. Tom Boisvert went over some of the duties that members on the State Land and Water Board have, and what the purpose of the Board is. It is important that county LCC representation is maintained on this Board as many decisions affect LCD functions and funding.
    c. Kelli Myers provided an overview of when nominations/elections need to be completed.
        i. There were no NCLWCA nominations at this meeting.
        ii. If a nomination were to arise, the NCLWCA officers will work with WI Land+Water staff to proceed with the election process.
    d. <u>State Land and Water Board Nomination/Election Process</u>
        i. WI Land+Water's member counties will elect three LWCB reps to serve a two-year term that begins January 2025.
        ii. Each area association is encouraged to nominate a candidate to the LWCB. The candidate's name and a one-page biography will be due to Kelli Myers (kelli@wisconsinlandwater.org) by noon on Monday, September 30, 2024.
        iii. Candidates will be contacted the week of September 30 to schedule a Zoom meeting that will occur the week of October 7, where WI Land+Water staff will assist candidates in recording their [up to five minute] address to membership stating their qualifications for the LWCB. Candidates will be provided questions to answer in their address prior to the week of October 7.
        iv. Information on voting (one vote per county) will be shared during the October 17-18, 2024 County Conservation Meeting in Stevens Point, and more broadly with our LCC and LCD listservs.
        v. Ballots and key information, including how and where to view the candidates' recordings, will be sent to each County Conservationist (or appropriate staff as previously determined) the week of October 21. An email will also be sent to the LCC and LCD listservs so all WI Land+Water members can view the recordings at their convenience. Voting will end at 5:00 pm on Friday, November 29, 2024.
        vi. Winning LWCB candidates will be announced in December.
8. WI Land+Water Leg/Admin Committee
    a. Tom Boisvert submitted an update.
    b. Please see the attachment with the minutes.
    c. It was discussed that additional LCC engagement on the Leg/Admin Committee is desired. If any LCC members are interested in joining, they can contact Matt Krueger.

i. Linnaea Newman expressed that she may be interested in joining and will reach out to Matt Krueger for more information.

9. WI Land+Water Conservation Board of Directors
    a. Tom Boisvert submitted an update.
    b. Please see the attachment with the minutes.
10. Recruitment for Area Interagency Training Committee (AITCOM)
    a. Kirstie Heidenreich provided an update from Michael Hook at WI Land+Water. AITCOM is looking for more members that can assist with providing specialized training on individual topics pertinent to the area.
    b. Individuals that are interested in this opportunity can reach out to Michael Hook directly.
11. WI Land+Water Youth Education Committee Update
    a. Patty Benedict submitted an update.
    b. Please see attachment with the minutes.
12. County Updates
    a. Forest
        i. Kayla Littleton provided an update.
        ii. Steve Kircher has retired and Kayla Littleton has filled the County Conservationist role.
        iii. Kayla has been working on lots of shoreline stabilization projects throughout the County. There is a list of interested landowners for future shoreline projects as well.
    b. Florence
        i. No update available.
    c. Lincoln
        i. Tom Boisvert provided an update.
        ii. 2024 cost-share projects have included: 2 well decommissioning's, 3 grazing projects, and 3 shoreline stabilizations. Additional cost-share projects are being designed for 2025.
        iii. AIS staff have been busy completing watercraft inspections, releasing purple loosestrife biocontrol beetles, conducting early detection monitoring, and more.
    d. Langlade
        i. Chris Arrowood provided an update.
        ii. Chris is working towards finalizing their land and water resource management plan. Overall, this plan is more detailed and provides clear guidance for working towards the plans goals.
        iii. The farmland preservation plan is also being finalized. Due to the high enrollment rate in Langlade County, this plan was a large undertaking.
        iv. Amber Ryan has started as the new Conservation Specialist.
        v. A Clean Sweep event will be held in August. Last year's event was very successful.
        vi. Considering working towards developing an E-cycle program.
    e. Marathon
        i. Kirstie Heidenreich provided an update.
        ii. Kirk Langfoss has been finalizing the new farmland preservation plan.
        iii. Marathon County hosted a young conservation professional's event. There were approximately 70 attendees.
        iv. Marathon County hosted the Wisconsin River Basin Bash. Conservation professionals, non-profits, lake organizations, and the general public were invited to discuss water quality challenges within the Wisconsin River drainage basin. Some success stories were also shared.

v. Kirstie has been actively dealing with some enforcement challenges related to a manure spill. Staff safety has been a concern with this case.

f. Oneida
   i. Linnaea Newman provided an update.
   ii. Many shoreline stabilization projects are being completed. Unfortunately, one large project had been halted due to the unexpected costs. The landowner could not afford to continue.
   iii. Wakeboats are still a hot button issue within Oneida County. Linnaea thought that an education campaign regarding wakeboat issues may be worthwhile.

g. Portage
   i. No update available.

h. Vilas
   i. No update available.

i. Wood
   i. No update available.

13. Agency Reports
    a. WI Land+Water
       i. Kelli Myers provided an update.
       ii. The State Land and Water Conservation Board elections were discussed again. Please see the nomination/election process outlined in item 7d.
       iii. The County Conservationist meeting will be held October 17-18 in Stevens Point, WI.
14. Next Meeting
    a. The planning meeting/area poster and speaking contest. Portage County will be hosting this event.
15. Other Business
    a. None
16. Adjourn at 2:42 p.m.
    1. **Motion to adjourn: Chris Arrowood – Langlade County, seconded by Kayla Littleton – Forest 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**
2024	ONEIDA	VILAS	LANGLADE
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	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 16th, 2025
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

Beyond the Business Meeting:

Each year, the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) holds a summer conservation tour. The goal of the tour is to highlight local conservation efforts within a member county. For 2024, Langlade County hosted the summer tour. The potato industry was a primary focus of the tour, and conservation efforts showcased included: cover crops, crop rotations, nutrient management planning, edge-of-field nutrient monitors, and more. After the tour, the NCLWCA business meeting was held.

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WISCONSIN LAND+WATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

NCLWCA 7/26/24 MEETING

For the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) Tom Boisvert is the LCD representative, Tracy Arnold serves as the LCD alternate, Mike Ritter serves as the LCC representative, and Linnaea Newman serves as the LCC alternate on the Wisconsin Land+Water Board of Directors. There was a Wisconsin Land+Water board of directors meeting on July 18th, 2024.

The new board introduced themselves, and the logistics/workings of the board of directors was discussed in detail. During this time Wisconsin Land+Water staff were also introduced and their roles were discussed as well.

The strategic plan was discussed in detail. The board of directors should be taking an active role in helping to implement this plan and promote the plan to others in their area association.

The revisions to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board election process were approved. Wisconsin Land+Water will be providing instructions to Counties regarding the nomination and election process. The new process will align better with county board elections, and should ensure that vacancies are less likely.

Wisconsin Land+Water policy priorities for the 2025-2027 cycle were discussed with the board. These policy priorities were approved by the Wisconsin Land+Water Legislative/Administrative Committee.

At this meeting the election of officers/executive committee occurred:
Monte Osterman was re-elected as Chair
Bob Micheel was re-elected as Vice-Chair
Chase Cummings was elected as Secretary
Amy Piaget was re-elected as Treasurer
Ken Gerhardt was elected to the Executive Committee
Mike Hofberger was elected to the Executive Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Boisvert

Tom Boisvert
WI Land+Water BOD Representative, North Central Area
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LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

NCLWCA 7/26/24 MEETING

Three Leg/Admin meetings were held since the last North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) meeting on April 18th, 2024. There were virtual Leg/Admin meetings held on May 20th, June 13th, and July 15th.

May 20th Meeting:

Committee Roles/Elections took place during this meeting.

- Kurt Calkins was re-elected as chair.
- Lynda Schweikert was elected as Vice Chair/Secretary

WI Land+Water's 2025-2027 policy priorities were discussed in detail at this meeting. For the full list of policy priorities that were discussed, please view the list later on in this update.

June 13th Meeting:

WI Land+Water's 2025-2027 policy priorities were again discussed in detail at this meeting. For the full list of policy priorities that were discussed, please view the list later on in this update.

July 15th Meeting:

Area association representation was discussed during the meeting. All areas have representation from LCD's. Almost no LCC representation is present. The Leg/Admin Committee would like to see LCC engagement increased. The Leg/Admin Committee's guiding principals were updated during this meeting.

WI Land+Water's 2025-2027 policy priorities were finalized at this meeting. Many topics were discussed, but the Leg/Admin Committee determined the core policy priorities for the 2025-2027 cycle. Other topics may still be supported by WI Land+Water if they arise, but the organization may not take the lead on the issue. Some topics discussed also have the potential to detract funds from county conservation staffing dollars. These topics were generally supported by the Leg/Admin Committee as long as consideration is given to this and that county conservation funding remains the primary goal.

Core WI Land+Water Policy Priorities:

- County Conservation Staffing – *Provide $20.2 million in stable, core funding support for county land and water conservation department staffing from the DATCP Soil and Water Resources Management Program budget.*

- Farmland Preservation Program – *Improve the DATCP Farmland Preservation Program (FP) program by 1) increasing Agricultural Enterprise Area acreage cap to 3 million acres, and 2) expanding grant implementation reimbursements to local units of government.*

- Well Compensation Grant Program – *Offer households with nitrate-contaminated wells the opportunity to access state funds for well replacement or whole home filtration.*

- Wake Boats – *Develop a science-based framework that minimizes the impacts of wake boats (shoreline erosion, water quality degradation, aquatic invasive species introduction and transport) while promoting local control.*

Other Priorities Discussed:

- Producer-led Watershed Groups – *Make DATCP's Producer-Led Watershed Grant Program more sustainable, with appropriate funding, administrative support mechanisms, and water-quality goals.*

- Rotational Grazing Programming – *Transition to Grass Pilot Program*

- SEG Innovation Grants – *Support increased flexibility with state conservation cost-share dollars, akin to DATCP's SEG Innovation Grants*

- Pay for Performance Pilot Projects – *Create a new, innovative pilot program that rewards superior farming systems and water quality improvement*

- Restoring UW-Extension Funding - *Restore funding to UW Extension's Natural Resource Educators that was removed from DNR's budget last budget cycle*

- Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) – *Refund the PACE program to support the future of Wisconsin's agricultural sector and the rural economy.*

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Boisvert
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YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (YEC) UPDATE AUGUST 2023

Poster and Speaking Contests

*The 2025 theme is “Home is Where the Habitat Is”. Forms and guidelines will be shared when available.

WI Envirothon

*Cedarburg High School’s team took first place and will represent Wisconsin at the 2024 NCF-Envirothon at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York July 28-August 3.
*Please consider including a $55 contribution (or more) in your budgets for the WI Envirothon.

Conservation Camps

*The middle school camp for students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 was held June 9-12, 2024 at Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells. There were 51 campers.
*The high school camp for students entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 was held June 17-20, 2024 at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters. Fourteen campers attended.

Silent Auction

*It’s never too early to start gathering items!
*Silent Auction proceeds support youth education programs: WI Envirothon, Poster and Speaking and two conservation camps.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Benedict
Youth Education Committee Representative, North Central Area