

SOUTHERN AREA ASSOCIATION
Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association

Southern Area Counties:

Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock & Sauk

President: Luke McGuire, Lafayette County
Vice President: Kurt Calkins, Columbia County
Secretary/Treasurer: Tess Wallner, Green County
Area Coordinator: Todd Jenson, Green County

January SAA Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 25th, 2024
Iowa County LCD
303 W. Chapel St
Dodgeville, WI 53533

1. Meeting called to order by Kurt Calkins at 10:34am
2. Roll call of counties: Columbia- 1 staff; Dane- 1 staff; Dodge- 1 staff; Grant- 1 staff; Green- 2 staff, 1 LCC; Iowa- 1 staff; Jefferson- 1 staff; Lafayette- 1 staff; Richland- 0; Rock- 1 staff; Sauk- 3 staff; WI Land + Water- 1 staff
3. Approval of agenda: motion by Grant/ 2nd by Dane to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
4. Review and approval of October minutes: motion by Dodge/ 2nd by Lafayette to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's report: motion by Sauk/ 2nd by Green to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Invoices for 2024 dues were sent, remittance by March 15th.
6. Update on Financial Reporting: Amy created a new EIN for the association, tax report form 990-N due May 15th, banking not switched yet, John will review and propose updates to bylaws to separate treasurer and secretary positions and a vote will take place at May meeting
7. Update on tax ID and treasurer position: see agenda item #6
8. Poster and speaking contests: there will not be a regional speaking contest due to limited participation, 6 counties submitted posters for regional contest, 5 for grades K-1, 4 for grades 2-3, 6 for grades 4-6, 5 for grades 7-9, and 4 for grades 10-12, travel reimbursement for state speaking contest participants will be handled like last year where the county they are from will reimburse the family for hotel and mileage then send an invoice for reimbursement from SAA, prices for gift cards has been increased by \$10 and will go out after results are announced, successful ways of getting poster contest involvement has been contacting biology teachers or principles, hosting ice cream parties for classrooms, or prizes for classroom with highest number of participation
9. Agency updates: WI Land + Water: 5 year strategic plan approved, working on new event code of conduct policy, adding a ½ time position to handle more financial assistance, annual conference early registration ends February 3rd, contact if you would like raffle tickets for conference
10. County roundtable:
 - Columbia: approved fourth conditional use permit for solar project, modifications to zoning ordinances stalled at county board, Kurt is co hosting a breakout session at the

annual conference on solar/wind projects and zoning, FPP revision due end of the year, SB826 in process relating to towns exiting county zoning

- Dane: environmental law and policy regulatory center is working with Stanford to create an AI model that uses satellite to detect winter manure spreading and testing it on Dane and Kewaunee counties, demo farm network has 4 farms and is looking for 1 more, hosting planter demonstration day in April in Arlington
- Dodge: lake district was awarded ARPA funding for stream work but DNR permitting staff turnover has held up progress so project is being cancelled, meeting with governor staff to discuss DNR permit issues and Matt Kreuger will be meeting with DNR to discuss
- Grant: wind project conditional use permit appealed and brought to court where appeal was denied- still in progress, hiring a soil and water con technician, TU will be conducting a culvert inventory on trout streams, DNR chapter 30 streambank restoration permit getting held up because cross channel weirs might need dam permitting, FPP maps needed corrections and recertified, questions on releasing deeds
- Green: FPP expires end of 2024 but county has no zoning, no AEA and very few contracts so weighing importance of rewriting plan, questions for Grant Co on cost to have 3rd party help write plan, clean sweep program is being transferred to LWCD to organize

Other note: annual conference will not have area association meetings this year but a short film fest starting at 4:30-5:45pm on Wednesday during 4:15-7pm social

- Iowa: fully staffed, 1st public meeting was held to discuss plan for county property, working on PL566 dam repairs
- Jefferson: Watertown working on phosphorus trading program with harvestable buffers, 2 landowners involved, permitting is slow through DNR
- Lafayette: Erica has been busy with zoning & sanitation, conservation office busy with grants etc, conservation specialist hired and starting soon, LWRM plan expiring in 2025 so rewriting soon, Max has been designated as the new Tri-County Trail Coordinator for the Cheese Country Trail
- Rock: doing 5 year plan update at DATCP board next month, FPP update for 2024
- Sauk: director left and is now back, new hire to help with 9 key element plan, master plan and CRP, education hub plan was adopted at county board, looking to install community gardens and restore historical firehouse, doing annual report in Canva, cost sharing policy updates to better spend \$, going to look into offering flat rates instead of percentage cost, ordering soon for native plant sale

11. Next meeting date: May 23rd @ 9am via zoom

12. Motion by Lafayette/ 2nd by Dodge to adjourn at 11:57am. Motion carried.