

DRAFT**MEETING MINUTES*****DRAFT***

**SOUTHEAST AREA LAND & WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
Meeting of March 1, 2023
Executive Room
Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells
4:30 p.m.**

Attendees: Paul Sebo, Washington County LCD; Stephanie Egner, Washington County LCD; Paul Backhaus, Washington County LCD; Katie Wilson, Washington County LCD; Alan Barrows, Waukesha County LCD; Jim Rose, Waukesha County LCD; Allyssa Vaughn, Waukesha County LCD; Brian Holt, Walworth County LCC; Mandy Bonneville, Walworth County LCD; Geoff Schramm, Ozaukee County LCD; Chase Brouillette, Ozaukee County LCD; Monte Osterman, Racine County LCC; Chad Sampson, Racine County LCD; Christina Anderson, WI Land & Water; Isabelle Paulsen, WI Land & Water.

Alan Barrows called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

At 4:32 p.m. a motion was made by Jim Rose, seconded by Paul Sebo to adopt the agenda.
ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

At 4:33 p.m. a motion was made by Brian Holt, seconded by Monte Osterman, to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2022 meeting. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report:

Geoff Schramm was not immediately present to give the report. Brian Holt motioned to table the report until Geoff's arrival, seconded by Paul Backhaus. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Future Meeting and Events:

Alan Barrows stated Racine County will be hosting the summer tour in 2023. Chad Sampson confirmed this and stated the proposed tour day is mid-September. A business meeting will be immediately after lunch during the tour.

WI Land & Water Board of Directors Update:

Monte Osterman stated it was time for the Board to put together the next 5-year strategic plan. A couple board members were appointed to put this together. The Board will be requesting input from the Area Associations.

Monte said Tribal Engagement was another item being discussed. The Board is working with Tribes to become more involved with us and vice versa. Board members will be attending more Tribal meetings to see where items overlap.

Monte said WI Land & Water had a financial audit and passed with flying colors. There will appear to be a budget deficit of \$153,000 on the financial report, but this does not include climate funds that came in 2022 which will offset much of this deficit.

Monte stated an NACD task force is providing input for the next farm bill and are looking for any feedback or input from the areas to provide more information for or against items being proposed in the bill.

Monte said on March 21 and 22 there is a fly in to D.C. to educate congressional members on conservation. The Conservation Committee is no longer part of the Agricultural and Forest Committee. There are many new congressional members on the Committee that have very little experience in conservation. It will be important to educate those members on the needs for conservation.

Monte said the Research and Education Committee is a new standing committee as part of WI Land & Water. A survey went out last week to fill out.

Monte stated it has taken two years to change the resolution process. Areas will no longer be able to bring a resolution to the Annual Meeting. Now, resolutions will go through Committee's. Then, the resolution will work its way to the Board and annual meeting. The changes will also be included in the bylaws which will be presented and voted on at the Annual Business Meeting.

Alan Barrows stated the proposed changes to the bylaws went under two separate legal reviews which shows the completeness of the detailed changes.

Paul Sebo asked if any Area bylaws changes are needed. Monte Osterman said the Areas will need to react to the bylaws changes and potentially update their bylaws.

Monte stated at NACD there have been a lot of Committee and structural changes that have been changed in the bylaws.

Monte said he is going to be taking on a higher roll at the NACD and requested someone else from the Southeast Area to replace him on the Legislative Administrative Committee. Alan Barrows suggested utilizing the SE Area Executive Committee to appoint a representative to the Legislative Administrative Committee. The Area is looking for a volunteer.

WI Land & Water update:

Isabelle Paulson and Christina Anderson introduced themselves.

Isabelle said the latest email she sent was the SITCOM Needs Assessment Survey. She asks that everyone please fill out the survey.

Christina stated the bylaws changes were mostly just cleaning up the bylaws to allow for virtual meetings and other small changes. The most significant change was the floor resolution process was eliminated. The new resolution process is called the "Local Policy Input Process." Proposed resolutions can be forwarded to Monte to be presented on the Legislative Administrative Committee. The County or staff proposing the resolution will be invited to the Legislative Administrative Committee to discuss the purpose behind the resolution. A flowchart has been created to help walk through the new process.

Christina said it is a State Budget year and Land & Water created handouts with the priorities to be discussed with elected officials. The budget ask of \$18.7 million dollars is being proposed as the "base amount" instead of a one-time ask. This is the amount on the grant applications submitted to WI DATCP. The Governor is proposing \$15 million in his budget. The Joint Finance Committee is going to be writing their own budget and WI Land & Water is asking membership to support the items in the handout, especially the budget ask.

Treasurer's Report:

Brian Holt made a motion to take the Treasurer's Report off the table, seconded by Paul Sebo. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Geoff Schramm provided a written report and the current balance is \$5,308.23 with Milwaukee County and Kenosha County not paid on the 2023 SE Area dues yet. Geoff asked to send him the invoices for the youth poster contest trophies. Paul Sebo directed the Treasurer to re-invoice Milwaukee and Kenosha County. Paul Sebo motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Brian Holt. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Great Lakes Committee update:

Geoff Schramm stated he listened in on the most recent Great Lakes Committee meeting and there is a mini-grant available for any county wanting to apply. Paul Sebo said this money is funneled through WI Land & Water.

Public Outreach Committee update:

Paul Backhaus said in December there was a Strategic Planning Meeting to set new goals and prioritize them. This came down to three topics. This includes "Marketing Conservation", "Lack of Communication Training" and "Counties Not Knowing Where to Start". The next meeting will be sometime this month and the Committee will decide how to move these ideas forward.

Youth Education Committee update:

Stephanie Egner said the poster contest trophies were ordered. She asked that everyone vote for the posters. Washington County and Walworth County have representation at the State level.

Stephanie asked for participation in the Envirothon which is on April 21st in Rosholt, WI.

The heavy planning for the Summer Conservation Camps is underway. The Committee is looking for more volunteers to assist at the camps. Stephanie emphasized there is scholarship money available for kids to attend camps.

Adjournment:

A motion was made at 5:18 p.m. by Brian Holt, seconded by Chad Sampson to adjourn. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared by Chad Sampson