



Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.
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Legislative/Administrative Committee

Meeting Minutes
 July 19, 2019

Date: 7/19/2019	
Start Time: 12:52 PM (Or Earlier Post Lunch CC MTG)	End Time: 3:30 PM
Location:	Holiday Inn & Convention Center 1001 Amber Ave. Stevens Point, WI 54482 Spruce Room
Conference Phone:	(877) 826-6967
Conf ID:	9793943
Committee Members: Kurt R. Calkins Chair (Columbia), Greg Baneck (Outagamie), Greg Cleereman Vice Chair/Secretary(Marinette), Paul Daigle (Diane Hanson-Alternate)(Marathon), Perry Lindquist (Waukesha), Dan Masterpole (Chippewa), Raymond Soper (Taylor), Ben Wojahn (Vernon), Monte G. Osterman (Racine), Dave Solin (Langlade),Carolyn Scholl (Vilas), Carl Chenoweth (Dane), Lynda Schweikert (Grant), Melissa Keenan(Sauk), Amy Piaget (Dane), Kriss Marion (Lafayette), Brian Haase (Waupaca), Bryce Luchterhand (Clark), Erin Hanson (Door), Tim Ritten (Polk)	
WI Land+Water Staff: Matt Krueger, Christina Anderson	
Notes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI Land+Water Meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person or via conference phone if desired. • Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair. • Please Inform Chair If You Are Unable To Participate 	
Next Meeting Time: October 16, 2019	

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE.

- **Call to Order: Calkins**
 - Called to order at 12:52pm

- **Roll Call: Secretary**
 - In person: Calkins, Ritten, Wojahn, Cleereman, Osterman, Haase, Scholl, Hansen, Daigle, Luchterhand, Piaget, Anderson, Krueger, Ferris, Fallat, Tessmer, Barrows, Frank, Cummings, Leonard, Tollard
 - On the phone: Lindquist

- **Adopt Agenda/Additions: July 19, 2019**
MOTION (Wojahn, Osterman) to approve the agenda with an addition of conversation about approaches to supporting full staffing funds. Motion carried, no negative vote.

- **Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: 3/28/2019**
MOTION (Wojahn, Piaget) to approve the October 18, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried, no negative vote.

- **Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: Special 4/18/2019 conference call**
MOTION (Wojahn, Osterman) to approve the October 18, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried, no negative vote.

- **State Budget Recap**
 - WI L+W Priorities (see attached table for more detail):
 - County funding increase of \$12.4 was not adopted in the budget.
 - Budget amendment (Novak/Zimmerman) for \$12.4 million, w/Republican sponsor and support from 5 other Republicans
 - Good, bipartisan support.
 - In budget paper, Leg Fiscal Bureau options for funding county staffing included deducting funds from MDV, we do not approve of the transfer. Need to be strong with messaging that this is NOT an option.
 - Potential for funding to still come through in the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality package. Discussion and speculation on what/if strings will come attached to increased funding. Understanding that any additional funding to meet statutory requirements is a recovery of past funds, not an increase. Currently 36.17% underfunded for 2020. New demands (groundwater, flooding), but have not resulted in increased staff funding.
 - Need to better prepare response for where funds will come from. Kurt & Matt are talking with administration about long-term funding alternatives.
 - Discussion on how to gain more support (including few legislators blocking increased funding across the board).
 - Continue to connect with reps and show examples of good projects
 - Work with WI L+W on press releases to be distributed when speakers task force wraps up (include partner and farmer support quotes)
 - Highlight financial benefits to communities
 - Connect with Farm Bureau to better understand positions and opportunities for collaboration.
 - **ACTION:** Matt & Ben to meet with Vernon Co farmer/FB rep (Nye) and new lobbyist.
 - Towns Association is also a good partner to discuss with.
 - Another partner to chat with, Wisconsin Realtors.
 - WGNHS hydro position not adopted in the budget
 - Had a budget amendment (Loudenbeck) for WGNHS position
 - Fiscally conservative legislators blocked any request for additional funding.
 - Governor vetoed few items in budget that would have given Legislature control (water testing). Expect the Governor to make announcement on items that did not make it into the budget (lead, PFAAs, Nitrate, etc.)
 - See table handout for details.

- **ATCP 51 Updates**
 - Great intrigue
 - Draft rule passed DATCP board last week – now goes to public hearing around the state
 - Despite letter from Legislative leaders telling them not to send it on; Dairy Alliance parallels
 - 9-group letter (WMC, FB, DBA, WDA, etc. Surprises: Cooperative Network, WAPAC)
 - Not enough vetting; DATCP lacks statutory authority to make the proposed revisions; law meant to apply to new and expanding facilities, not require operational changes “already addressed by others statutes and rules.”
 - Odor mgmt. & setbacks – issue with proposed increased setbacks

- with possibility of credits for mitigation
 - Consistency with existing standards
 - Runoff mgmt. – VTAs incorporated
 - Monitoring compliance checklist delegated to local governments (Section 51) of rule revision
- Support came from Farmers Union, WLW, Towns Assn. Halverson & Frank commented in favor of it.
- Argument that it was past time to take rule to public hearing carried the day. Motion to do so was approved unanimously with two addendums:
 - Mid-point checkup in Sept at DATCP board on how the hearings are proceeding
 - Including farm groups' opposition to rule in rule packet
- Next steps in process:
 - August-Sept hearings (Madison, Wausau, Eau Claire, Oshkosh)
 - Sept DATCP BOD mtg – update on hearings
 - Nov DATCP BOD mtg – approval/rejection of final draft
- Discussion: We need to figure out what our role is, how much energy we spend on the rule. This does not affect all counties.
 - Setback change, might just make inconsistencies.
 - Matt will continue to work with FU, Towns, WCA, counties (Daigle, Frank, Halverson) and get folks out to meetings.
- **Legislative Updates**
 - All the action on Senate side; Assembly waiting for WQTF report
 - SB 31 - CAFO fees to program revenue
 - author: Cowles; summary: \$345 permit fee as CAFO program revenue;
 - status: passed committee
 - WLW position: N/A
 - SB 91 – Nutrient trading clearinghouse
 - author: Cowles; summary: 3rd party clearinghouse created to promote market solutions to P permit compliance;
 - Status: passed Senate (32-0), Assembly (AB 113) held public hearing, awaiting scheduling with committee.
 - GB/MK met with staff.
 - Concerns were how would be implemented, and whether would have negative impact on county conservation depts. engaged in P compliance (trading, MDV) or otherwise.
 - Amendment roped in greater DNR oversight
 - Question about verification: 3rd party would be on the hook for it, subject to DNR review. Permittee would pay for this verification/assistance – opportunity for counties to received compensation.
 - Opportunity for counties to contract directly with clearinghouse for verification/implementation of credits AND/OR opportunity for counties to be compensated directly as brokers of trades/credits.
 - Indicated that we could get in on this early and develop template contracts with DOA/DNR during implementation discussions.
 - Several things still unclear: how will actually be implemented, and effect it will have. Whether soft practices can generate fixed credits. Our take: little chance for this to negatively impact counties, while there is opportunity for benefit.
 - WLW position: for
 - SB 137 – Nitrate Testing Bill
 - Author: Testin; summary: \$2500 for well owners with wells over 10 ppm nitrate; \$500K to counties to administer well testing programs
 - Status: put into JFC budget (at \$3M instead of original \$5M), pulled out but money retained, ultimately vetoed by Gov. WLW position: against (One-time payment of \$2500 per household is not sufficient funding; \$500K total for counties is also not sufficient for program admin.; this proposal is in a way competing with legislation circulated by Rep. Shankland to improve an existing DNR well compensation program.)

- SB 252 -- \$300K in GPR funding for 2-3 natural infrastructure/wetland restoration demo sites in Ashland Co. Partners: Ashland Co, WWA, USGS, Northwest Regional Planning Commission. For design, and construction of flood risk-reduction restoration practices
 - Authors: Petrowski, Bewley, etc. (bipartisan)
 - WLW position: FOR
- **Speakers Task Force On Water Quality Updates**
 - Halfway through. We hope to get some funding out of it; a few other bills that probably wouldn't have otherwise happened will result from it.
 - Rumored water quality package components:
 - County con staffing grant to \$12.4 million (average 3 positions) ACTUALLY \$12.8 BASE ON 2020 REQUESTS
 - Bump to PLWGs
 - Funding a mapping position at USGS, WGNHS
 - Funding the UW Freshwater Initiative
 - Well Compensation
 - Funds for Vernon/Richland/Crawford groundwater study
- **Governors Year of Clean Drinking Water**
 - More water quality initiatives are expected, post-budget
 - Lead, PFAs, nitrate (NR 151 for Central Sands?) – legislator left him room to make hay on those issues.
 - Have initiated discussions with DNR policy staff RE: condition of nonpoint account, larger evaluation of conservation/nonpoint program.
- **Discussion On Authorized Local Program Concept**
 - Perry reviewed and boiled it down to a one-pager
 - Concept is only if they provided additional funding on top of the statutory fund. (see attachment for summary)
 - Offer as one strategy for improving statewide implementation of state performance standards. There are rules on the books, but the program is a bit dysfunctional.
 - The summary was sent to the legislators with the testimony follow up requests for FLW priorities.
 - Summary provides a good response to “what should we do” from administration and agency heads.

ACTION: advance updated ALP summary to governor and agencies. But, it does require more money and some statutory changes.
- **Legislative Interest In Modifications To FPP**
 - Matt & Kurt went to the capitol to meet with Rep Spreitzer to discuss Rock County resolution that was approved at WI L+W business meeting.
 - Proposed simplification of credit tiers from 3 to 2, increases to tax credit associated with each tier, and shortening up contract length.
 - Discussion:
 - Effective tool to achieve compliance. Request to clean up language to say, if they are drop out, they still have to maintain compliance. (Enforcement challenges in some counties)
 - FDL and Marathon charge evaluation fee (FDL - \$60, doesn't make a dent in county cost)
 - Leg fiscal bureau figured out the pay rates calculation changes (\$12.50-10.00)

ACTION: Kurt will send it out.
 - More meetings set up between Spreitzer and Oldenburg.
- **Committee Update Process: Roles & Responsibilities**
 - Rationale
 - Work of committees is essential to WI Land+Water's strength as an organization
 - GPs applied inconsistently across WLW committees, post-merger

- Consistency in how committees function (w/respect to WLW staff)
- Reference doc, useful for onboarding new members but also recruitment
- Strategic plan goal to better clarify these processes
- Each committee's work and style is different and somewhat independent, and want to respect that...but looking for consistency
- Timeline:
 - Draft GPs and procedures to MK/PL for review mid-Oct
 - To Exec Committee Nov
 - To BOD for approval Dec 12
- Perry used Leg/Admin committee as a template for other committees to follow, so draft is ready to respond to.

ACTION: Kurt, Perry, Matt, Amy will review draft. Send any suggestions to the group. Will meet in early September.

 - Subcommittee will review and bring back any changes to the Leg/Admin at the Oct 16 meeting.

- **Organizations Resolution Process Discussion**

- Some issues with our resolution timing. How might they be timed, better coordinated to inform lobbying strategy? (example this year groundwater standards for nitrate application and farmland preservation informed policy discussions, apart from lobbying strategy.)
- Timing issue: Develop lobbying priorities prior to Annual Meeting; then resolutions come out and often vary from lobbying priorities
- Things to consider:
 - Timing: better align with policy strategy, quick response options
 - How resolutions inform lobbying/advocacy strategy
 - Tracking: Categorize and track them. Statute of limitations.
 - Vetting: Bump them to the appropriate committee for review, revision.

MOTION (Wojahn, Scholl) to recommend Board of Directors and Executive Committee evaluate the development of a more fluid and responsive resolution process. Motion carried, no negative vote.

- **Other Topics of Interest For Discussion**

- Leg/Admin more involved in County Conservationists meeting
 - Keep doing the round robin. Half each day.
 - Interactive discussions are always more valuable.
 - Speaker suggestion– Bill Horveth (lives in Point)
- Livestock license discussion.

- **Adjourn**

MOTION (Daigle, Wojahn) to adjourn at 3:20 pm. Motion carried, no negative vote.