



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Legislative-Administrative Committee

Meeting Minutes

Conference & Video Call Only

- Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Calkins at 1pm.
- Roll Call - Committee Members: Kurt R. Calkins Chair (Columbia), Greg Baneck (Outagamie), Erin Hanson (Door), Lynda Schweikert (Chippewa), Melissa Schlupp (Sauk), Amy Piaget (Dane), Brian Haase (Waupaca), Paul Tollard, Vice Chair/Secretary (Fond du lac), Scott Frank (Shawano), Melissa Luck (Richland)
- WI Land + Water Staff: Matt Krueger, Christina Anderson
- Agencies: Coreen Fallat, Jenni Heaton-Amrhein (DATCP), Mike Gilbertson (DNR), Dan Zerr (UWEX)
- Other attendees: Carolyn Scholl, Violas County

- Adopt Agenda/Additions (6/14/2022) – Motion (Scott F/Greg B) to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

- Approve Previous Meeting Minutes (5/9/2022) - Motion (Brian H/Erin H). Motion passed.

- Agency Partner Reports -
- DATCP – Coreen Fallat - Brian Weigel is division administrator. Bureau Director 2nd interviews but no new news. Federal funding discussions with DNR. Most funding is likely from Hypoxia task force. Guidance for funding is heavy on environmental justice. Will meet tomorrow to discuss funding opportunities with the guidance. Exploring different positions with cooperative agreement with NRCS to run ACPF modeling for counties.

Jennifer Heaton Amrhein – Emergency rules for Nitrogen Optimization and Cover Crop Rebate Program. DATCP needs to ask for appropriation. Dana Christel will be the new Farmer Led Program Coordinator.

- DNR – Mike Gilbertson - Nonpoint Infrastructure committee met to provide recommendation on funds. Teams are meeting to recommend changes to funding. NR151 webinar has been having good participation. Next meeting is in planning. Direct Runoff Guidance is signed and approved and posted to different DNR websites. Brian Wigle is leaving DNR to go to division administrator at DATCP.

- UWEX – Dan Zerr - Rachel Rushmen is now part of the Ag & Water quality program. Laretta Pauletta will be based in Green Bay. Rachel Whitehair will be leaving. Just hired Katie Sturmer working in the Winnebago Area. Lots of personnel changes.

- Confirm New Committee Members – Katie Abbott – Iowa County & Bob Bultman – Door County. Motion to add Katie and Bob to the committee (Amy P/Erin H). Motion Passed. Erin Hansen will be returning to the DNR and will no longer attend meetings.
- Discuss 2023-25 Legislative and Budget Priorities – Matt Krueger. Budget priorities to work with the governor’s office. What do we want to advocate for? We’ve worked hard to identify priorities and that we should not be partisan with budget priorities.
- At a minimum adjusting the base staffing funding is up most important. ARPA funds are for practices but not people power. ARPA funds vary from county to county. In many counties, ARPA funds will not be used for conservation. Show DATCP and County investments into local county conservation programs and leverage that. LWCD’s are concerned about how new state funding will be used and how to maintain county levy with new state funding. If no money is put back into the state budget for staffing we will revert back to the 2017-2019 budget funding levels. Base funding needs to be adjusted and made permanent. Staff funding increases on 2-3% annually. Maintenance of effort by counties for any new funding was emphasized. Adding a staff position to each department in every county vs the statutory funding formula of 100, 70, 50 ~ is pretty a pretty close dollar amount. Advocating for adding a staff person would increase the capacity of each county, then county can choose what that new staff person can do.
- Also increase the FPP tax credit.
- A separate meeting on this topic is scheduled for the County Con Meeting in July.
- Adjourn – Motion (Scott/Brian H) to adjourn at 3:29 pm.