

**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

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**May SAA Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 11th, 2023**  
**via Zoom**

1. Meeting called to order by Kurt Calkins at 1:35pm
2. Roll Call of Counties: Columbia- 1 staff; Dane- 1 staff; Dodge- 1 staff; Grant- 2 staff; Green- 2 staff 1 LCC; Iowa- 1 staff; Jefferson- 1 staff; Lafayette- 1 staff; Richland- 0; Rock- 2 staff; Sauk- 1 staff; WI Land + Water- 1 staff.
3. Approval of Agenda: motion by Grant/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lafayette to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
4. March Minutes: motion by Dane/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dodge to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
5. Treasurers Report: motion by Dodge/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lafayette to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.
6. Consider possible donation to Columbia County for summer tour: They are estimating the total cost of their tour to be \$9500, they cannot charge a registration fee, asking for a \$500 donation from SAA; SAA will pay \$500 for the cost of bus rental and donate an additional \$500. Motion by Grant/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dane. Motion carried.
7. Implementation of new Resolution and Position Statement Process in bylaws:
8. Acknowledge Melissa Schlupp as SAA area representative for the above referenced process:
9. Legislative Updates (AB 131 FSA/LCC bill) and (AB 133 Farmland Preservation) and any others:
  - May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am there will be a Leg Ad meeting covering ATCP50, bills 222, 220, 134, 147, and others, between senate and assembly the budget is being amended to be \$13.3 million
10. Agency Updates: Isabelle Paulsen with WI Land + Water was on the meeting and said there will be more guidance coming in regards to association budgets/accounts in the coming weeks
11. County Roundtable
  - Jefferson: starting a groundwater study with funding from ARPA, they had a goal of recruiting 800 wells to sample and ended with over 900, plan to do analysis and education/outreach; received lots of applications for their new position; having more concerns raised about CAFOs and people wanting more regulations for animal mortality, spreading waste, high capacity wells, and stormwater

- Lafayette: busy with septic installs; lots of cost share applications; just finished a nutrient management education course; have over 200 new acres in FPP; compliance reviews; construction will be mostly late summer/fall; hoping to hire another position; two manure storage applications
- Rock: three vacancies in staff right now but having a nutrient management/agronomist starting in June; 9 key element plan is in progress; NRCS DC Matt Miller is moving to Iowa County
- Sauk: Schneider Engineering was authorized to design new education hub for the county farm; busy prepping for Farm Technology Days in July
- Columbia: conversation around solar farms is calming down, issued 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional use permit; towns are wanting out of county zoning but they will lose FPP and conservation assistance
- Dane: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District currently has two discharges but may be eliminating 3.6 million gallon/day discharge to Bad Fish Creek so they don't have to upgrade facility to meet water quality standards, Bad Fish Creek gets 30-70% of flow from MMSD and is considered a class 2 trout stream, Dane Co LCD spent \$1 million on stream habitat recently, Rock County also expressed they are concerned with the change in flow to Badger Mill Creek if MMSD directs all discharge there; partnering with Jefferson County for PL566 watershed program for Lake Koshkonong
- Dodge: finishing construction on waterways from last fall, strategic plan from county board called for educating the public on water quality and reducing nutrients entering water which the LWCD is already doing; they are creating mission and vision statements
- Grant: drying out from Mississippi River flooding but thankful Wisconsin River didn't back up as well, emergency management is reporting low damage but many homes are still evacuated; new soil conservationist starting next week, SWRM bond spent; wind projects are starting
- Green: four construction projects going right now; tree sale was in April with over 200 orders; youth conservation days was last week with 130+ kids and 13 stations; summer intern starts May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Iowa: spending ATC funds; wanting to do well study, UWSP water lab fully booked out so putting money instead to getting equipment and training to do testing themselves

12. Next meeting date: Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm

13. Motion by Lafayette/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dane to adjourn at 2:51pm. Motion carried.