

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

October SAA Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2023
Iowa County LCD
303 W. Chapel St
Dodgeville, WI 53533

1. Meeting called to order by Kurt Calkins at 10:32am
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- 1 LCC; Rock- 1 staff; Sauk- 1 staff; WI Land + Water- 1 staff
3. Approval of agenda: motion by Sauk/ 2nd by Lafayette to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
4. Review and approval of August minutes: motion by Green/ 2nd by Lafayette to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's report: motion by Lafayette/ 2nd by Sauk to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
6. Discuss the treasurer position not rotating: In the meeting with all area associations it was noted that most others only have one person designated, not rotating. Our bylaws show that secretary and treasurer are a combined role but we could look at separating it so secretary still rotates. What could we offer to incentivize being treasurer? Stipend? Decreased dues? If we restructure our financial reporting, it may become simpler to continue rotating. Readdress after financial reporting is further looked into.
7. Financial reporting for the association and banking changes: Each area association gets one hour of time with Chad Rhodes, WI Land + Water accountant. Amy, Katie, and Tess will set up a meeting with him. Need to know if we still need a SSN on the account if we have an EIN, should we become 501c non-profit, and who would have check signing authority.
8. Training opportunities hosted by SAA: Some trainings gave quotes of \$25k so looking for more ideas. Melissa Schlupp suggested an advanced excel training by MATC, she will get more details. Amy Piaget suggested a soil health training by Soil Regen, she is attending one in December and will see if it would be good for the group. Other suggestions were learning to use Canva, understanding government and floodplain ordinances, WI DNR OHWM and wetland delineation, and overall communication.

Some may be similar to what is offered at the WI Land + Water conference so we will wait to hear from PIC & TEC is including for that.

9. Poster and speaking contests: Southern Area speaking contest is January 24th in Baraboo and the poster contest is January 26th. All materials are due by January 19th. Currently, Sauk and Green have a poster contest and Dodge, Columbia, and Lafayette have a speaking and poster contest. Notify Justine Bula if you are having one and aren't listed. Prizes have been \$25, \$20, and \$10 Amazon gift cards. Motion made by Green to increase all prizes by \$10/ 2nd by Iowa. Motion carried.

10. Discuss holding a meeting during the annual conference: Conference is March 6-8, typically we meet at the conference. WI Land + Water is proposing to have a "general session that is engaging and fun" instead. If we opt to do the general session, we will have regular meeting earlier in the year instead. Motion by Columbia to have separate meeting before conference and general session at the conference/ 2nd by Dane. Motion carried.

11. Agency updates: none.

12. County roundtable:

- Columbia: projects dealing with floodplains (zone A) and needing H&H studies has been difficult, Leg. Ad.- Marinette County is getting concerns about tiling, a subcommittee is working with the technical committee and looking at DATCP drainage district statutes, this will probably start becoming a topic in other counties
- Dane: executive director is retiring in May, there will be an appointee by the county board and an election in November 2024 and April 2025
- Dodge: going through budgeting process and getting projects done
- Grant: spent all 2023 DATCP funding, tree sale is going on, FPP checks
- Green: youth conservation day with 5th graders, hosted a county land judging contest with 20 schools, helped host the state land judging contest with 25 schools, tree sale is going on, county farm went up for lease again
- Iowa: tech position reposted, current specialist is leaving in November, interviewing for replacement specialist, very low staff currently, may have leftover bond money if needed, working on master plan for the county farm which is mostly in CRP
- Jefferson: two producer led watershed groups are holding a workshop with two other counties' groups, new water resource specialist starting soon
- Lafayette: land conservation and zoning committee merge failed at county board vote, doing CREP monitoring, FPP checks, working on ordinance updates, will fill vacant position if budget is approved
- Richland: zoning and conservation departments may merge soon, county conservationist is retiring soon, tree sale has moved online, new technician is doing well
- Rock: several positions open, county suffered a ransomware attack which impacted GIS data and designs from end of 2022 to current, more focus on floodplain zoning standards, lysimeter installed with discovery farm

- Sauk: still without a director, county farm education hub passed the board, hiring a conservation tech in joint position with USDA, tree sale opening soon, looking into offering a native plant sale soon too, Conserve Sauk Film Fest Nov. 4th

13. Next meeting date: January 25th at 10:30am in Dodgeville with virtual option

14. Motion by Lafayette/ 2nd by Sauk to adjourn at 11:40am. Motion carried.