



# NORTH CENTRAL AREA

## Land and Water Conservation Association

Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood

Meeting Date: 01-28-2022

**Meeting Location:** Virtual (Google Meet) – Hosted by Lincoln County

**In Attendance:** Scott Goodwin – Florence County, Steve Kircher – Forest County, Chris Arrowood – Langlade County, Ron Nye – Langlade County, Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Elizabeth Peronto – Lincoln County, Kirk Langfoss – Marathon County, Paul Daigle – Marathon County, Bob Mott – Oneida County, Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County, Gerry Zastrow – Portage County, Patty Benedict – Portage County, Cathy Higley – Vilas County, Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County, Derek Thorn – Lumberjack RC&D

**Counties Present:** Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood

**Others Present:** Lumberjack RC&D (FLOW)

1. Called meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of those in attendance
3. 2022 North Central Area Speaking and Poster Contest Winners
  - a. Tracy Arnold put together a PDF to share the poster contest winners in each category. In her absence, Tom Boisvert presented this information.
  - b. Winners will be given a trophy and an Amazon gift card. Tom asked what should happen with ties. It was determined by several in attendance that all ties will still be given prizes.
  - c. Tom will share the PDF of the winners with the minutes. All information that is needed to move the winners onto the State Competition will be given to Patty Benedict.
  - d. The poster contest winners are as follows:
    - i. K-1 Division
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Shelby Vega, Lincoln County
      2. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Clark Higley, Vilas County
      3. 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Serena Redman, Portage County
    - ii. 2-3 Division
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Nora Schmied-Boelk, Portage County
      2. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Bryn Montgomery, Forest County
      3. 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Liliana Boquist, Lincoln County
    - iii. 4-6 Division
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Katelyn McNelly, Portage County
      2. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Hailey Brown, Forest County
      3. 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Vayda Ives, Oneida County (Tie)
      4. 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Daryn Smolinski, Vilas County (Tie)

5. 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Emily Lundgren, Wood County (Tie)
    - iv. 7-9 Division
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Delaney Omernick, Portage County
      2. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Faith Novak, Forest County (Tie)
      3. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Skylar Leidl, Oneida County (Tie)
    - v. 10-12 Division
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Kjersten Kazda, Portage County
      2. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Mel Rampart, Lincoln County
  - e. The speaking contest winners are as follows:
    - i. 5-6 Division
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Lachlan Mouw, Oneida County
    - ii. 9-12 Division
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Cade Stankowski, Portage County
4. Secretary's Report
  - a. Tracy Arnold was absent – no report.
  - b. A motion to approve the minutes from May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County, seconded by Gerry Zastrow, Portage County.**
    - i. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
5. Treasurer's Report – Kirk Langfoss, Marathon County
  - a. Kirk took over treasurer's position last August, and picked things up from where Carolyn Scholl had left off.
  - b. Kirk shared the budget financials. The NCLWCA is currently bringing in more revenue than expenses. This is a recurring theme for several years back. Expenses have also been lower due to not meeting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the organization is doing great economically.
  - c. A proposed agenda item for the next meeting is to discuss the income vs expense ratio (high income, low expenses).
  - d. Miscellaneous expenses – updated corporate records with the WI Department of Financial Institutions, including the Annual Report and the Registered Agent.
  - e. Invoices for dues will be sent out sometime soon.
  - f. Motion to renew certificate of deposit at the time of maturity – Gerry Zastrow, Portage County, seconded by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County.**
    - i. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
6. President's Report – Bob Mott, Oneida County
  - a. Bob is not running for re-election. He has enjoyed being president of this organization, but has decided to step away from the role at this time.
  - b. Bob thanked Shane Wucherpfennig for hosting the summer meeting in Wood County. Going off this, Shane stated that he is still waiting for an invoice from the catering company. The company was having problems with their billing system. If the invoice is received in 2022, Kirk Langfoss stated that it could still be paid.
  - c. Bob noted that the 2022 budget needs to be approved.
    - i. Motion to keep the 2022 budget the same as 2021 – Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County, Seconded by Paul Daigle, Marathon County.**
      - 1. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
    - ii. The new budget will be sent to each County.

- iii. The 2023 budget should be on the agenda for the fall meeting.
  - d. Bob stated that Matt Krueger is doing a great job as executive director with WI Land+Water. Matt could not be here for the meeting, but provided these updates:
    - i. WI Land+Water registration is open for the virtual conference. The conference was changed to be virtual due to concerns with rising COVID-19 levels. The conference will be held at Chula Vista in 2026 – this was done to help offset cancellation costs.
    - ii. Michael Hook is the new statewide training coordinator with WI Land+Water. He coordinates training conservation professionals through the State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM).
    - iii. 918 million will be made available from NRCS for watershed activities. This is through the recent Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act. Counties should pay attention to grant opportunities because the criteria is pretty liberal.
  - e. Bob had a conversation with Christina Anderson about her role with WI Land+Water.
    - i. WI Land+Water is working to identify resources to help counties adapt to climate change. Areas WI Land+Water is looking into include: carbon credits, AARPA funds, Build back Better Act, managing extreme weather, etc. They will continue to add to the climate resilient page on the member's hub. This page can be found here: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/conservation-resources/climate-resilience>
    - ii. There will be a webinar series for climate impacts. This opportunity will be advertised in the near future.
- 7. Youth Education Update – Submitted by Patty Benedict, Portage County
  - a. Poster and Speaking Contests
    - i. The Annual WI Land+Water Conference will be held virtually as will the State poster and speaking contests.
    - ii. Winning speech videos and posters and registration forms must be submitted to Kim Warkentin at WI Land+Water by February 11, 2022. As the Area Youth Education Committee Representative, Patty Benedict will submit the Area winners to State.
    - iii. Posters will be judged by all LCC and LCD members February 22-24. A link will be sent out closer to those dates.
    - iv. Speeches will be judged by Youth Education Committee members that do not have speakers involved. Judging will take place February 22-24.
  - b. WI Envirothon
    - i. WI Envirothon will be a hybrid event this year. Current issue presentations will be held virtually prior to the in-person field day stations. This will eliminate the need for schools and volunteers to stay overnight. The in-person stations will be held on April 22, outdoors and distanced as best as possible.
  - c. Conservation Camps
    - i. The Middle School camp for students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 will be held June 15-18, 2022 at Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells. There are accommodations for 80 campers. More information to follow.
    - ii. High school camp for students entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be held June 20-23, 2022 at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters. Attendance is capped at 25 campers.
    - iii. Promote both camps and offer scholarships if possible.
  - d. Silent Auction

- i. The same platform as last year is being used – [www.32auctions.com/wilandandwater](http://www.32auctions.com/wilandandwater)
- ii. Items are needed. Please consider donations showcasing your county.
- iii. Fill out information on the [Google Form](#) provided via email on January 20 and email up to 4 photos, along with a logo of the donating business to Megan Steckelberg – [megan.steckelberg@co.adams.wi.us](mailto:megan.steckelberg@co.adams.wi.us)
- iv. Silent Auction proceeds support youth education programs: WI Envirothon, Poster and Speaking and 2 conservation camps.

## 8. Election of New Officers

### a. President

- i. There were no candidates at this time. It was suggested to wait until after the April elections as there might be more people interested in the position at that time. In the meantime, it was suggested to see if any Land Conservation Committee members would be interested.
- ii. Bob will see if Robert Thome, Oneida County would have an interest in this position.

### b. Vice President

- i. Motion for Steve Kircher, Forest County to continue as the Vice President for another term – Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, seconded by Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County.**

**1. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

### c. Secretary

- i. Tracy Arnold will be stepping down from this position.
- ii. Tom Boisvert volunteered to enter into this position.
- iii. Motion to appoint Tom Boisvert, Lincoln County as Secretary – Steve Kircher, Forest County, seconded by Chris Arrowood, Langlade County.**

**1. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

### d. Treasurer

- i. Kirk has stated that he would like to continue in this position.
- ii. Motion for Kirk Langfoss, Marathon County to continue as Treasurer – Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, seconded by Shane Wucherpfennig – Wood County.**

**1. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

### e. Area Coordinator

- i. Carolyn asked if Steve Kircher still would like to be the Area Coordinator. Steve said he would like to continue with this responsibility.

## 9. LWCB Nomination – Robert Thome, Oneida County

- a. Bob encouraged everyone to review Robert Thome's bio that was submitted for the LWCB election. Bob believes he would be a great candidate.

## 10. County Updates

### a. Florence County

- i. Presenting their 10 year Land and Water Plan next week to the LWCB. Finalizing one culvert replacement project. This project is also involves collaboration with trout unlimited.

### b. Forest County

- i. Boat landing project – shallow boat landing. Working to get this boat landing useable. Working with the Forestry Department on this project as well. WDNR oversight may limit the project.
- ii. Completed Forest County's first NMP with their largest potato farmer.

- iii. In the process of purchasing a drone. They are developing a drone policy, so that other departments in the County may use the drone as well.
- c. Langlade County
  - i. Spent the last year going through 27 years' worth of records. Department didn't know in detail what had been done throughout these years. Organization was required to update and audit these records. They are working to get this information out to the public.
- d. Lincoln County
  - i. Working to get projects lined up for the 2022 season. There were no "shovel ready" projects ready to go, and some landowners on the list had completed their projects on their own or are no longer interested.
  - ii. Working through Nonmetallic mining issues including: revising reclamation plans, acquiring correct permits, and financial assurance.
- e. Marathon County
  - i. Marathon County has done extremely well in their NMP efforts. In particular, NMP farmer education has been successful, and Paul believes that producers that make their own plan are more likely to follow it.
  - ii. Paul has been working to get the Fenwood Creek watershed additional funding. He was communicating with Senator Mary Felkowski and other legislators to hopefully fund the pilot project through legislation. Paul sent everyone this information.
  - iii. The Fenwood Creek pilot project is an incentive based program to lower phosphorous rates. Staff does not prescribe the practices – it is up to the farmer. The incentive payments go higher as the phosphorous index gets lower. The phosphorous index is based on the entire farm.
  - iv. Paul also encourages counties to submit requests to use AARPA funds for conservation related issues.
  - v. Paul is also retiring this spring after 36 years in conservation.
- f. Oneida County
  - i. Manure storage ordinance update
    - 1. Went down in committee last week. Small farmers did not want local control. These farmers stated that they would like to continue with WDNR and DATCP control. An organic farmer thought the ordinance was not necessary since there was already state control.
      - a. Ordinance was postponed until a 200 animal unit operation comes into Oneida County. It will be re-evaluated at that time.
    - ii. Looking to conduct more educational outreach to the farming community.
    - iii. Ramping up on staff. Michele is excited to have some flexibility as she can now use an LTE on multiple different projects.
    - iv. Super busy year being involved with zoning. Violations that required conservation input were frequent. New Assistant Zoning Director is really focusing on shoreline zoning, and more restoration based thoughts are being pursued.
- g. Portage County
  - i. Waiting to see if a healthy lakes grant is awarded. There are 20 plus projects lined up for this grant. They are seeking an extension of the 2021 grant that still has 6 projects lined up.
  - ii. SWRM Grant funds – streambank and shoreline projects, grazing projects, and manure storage abandonment.

- iii. AARPA funds – working with administrator to possibly get funding for nitrate testing in wells.
  - iv. New planning and zoning director in the department. Started about a month ago.
  - v. Passed a wellhead protection ordinance. One of the most stringent in the state. The Central Sands Groundwater Collaborative received a grant to hire an individual with a geologist background to collect current groundwater data. Report should be available in the coming months, and nitrate levels will be a focus.
  - vi. Lynn Markham from the Center of Land Use education spoke at their last meeting. She discussed how zoning can be used as a tool to protect groundwater.
- h. Wood County
- i. Extremely busy year again. Lots of agriculture focus.
  - ii. 1 9KE plan that spans northern Wood County and Southern Portage County (Mill Creek Watershed). Year three of implementation – huge numbers of phosphorous reduction. Added some new farm implement tools to the arsenal.
  - iii. Approximately 95% of wood county drains into the Wisconsin TMDL, and as a result, their projects help with this TMDL. Have been monitoring Mill Creek watershed for many years, and they will see how conservation practices may improve water quality.
  - iv. 6,000 acres of no-till and cover crops were put on the ground this season alone. Large phosphorous reductions as a result. These practices are tracked through GIS and the BITS program through WDNR. Some of these practices were funded through the MDV program.
  - v. Groundwater study (2 years) was completed. Tested at least one well in every section throughout the county. In total, 675 well samples were taken across the county. About 12% exceeding state nitrate levels (some spots more prevalent than others).
  - vi. Streambank/shoreline restoration, manure pit abandonment, and other hard practices are being pursued for the next season.
  - vii. Manure storage ordinance has given them some “teeth” to take care of issues. Runoff issues were a main example. It can be tough to depend on state agencies for assistance at times, so it is helpful having the ability to enforce at the County level.
- i. Vilas
- i. Another very busy season.
  - ii. Participating in a class that Christina Anderson of WI Land+Water put together with NRCS regarding carbon sequestration. Carolyn is hoping to understand the new tools and correlate those with cost-share projects. She is thinking of looking at projects as a carbon sequestering opportunity rather than a phosphorous reduction.
  - iii. For the first time they will have three LTE’s in the department. Received some funding through LMPN and healthy lakes. They have a specialized LTE for their Rivers Grant.
  - iv. Continuing with the Rice Creek watershed protection grant. They are now in year two of this grant. In the spring after snowmelt, there will be data collection with staff and many volunteers.
  - v. Paul McGinley, UWSP Professor, is helping to develop total phosphorous modeling on small sites. Vilas County and others from the Northwestern portion of the state are collaborating on this effort.
  - vi. Reorganizing record keeping throughout the winter months to keep cost-share practices straight. Takes time, but is good for the long run.

- vii. Might be seeking AARPA funding. Looking for storm water infrastructure improvements and/or nitrate testing for private wells.

11. Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Report

- a. The LWCB reviews County land and water plans from across the state. At the last meeting, Waushara, Milwaukee, and Waukesha Counties had their land and water plans reviewed by the board.
- b. Bob commented on how unique problems present themselves in each County.
- c. 7 candidates for LWCB – make sure that each county votes by March 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Their speeches will be given at the state conference. All electronic voting.
- d. The voting member is the County's Land Conservation Committee Chair, or an individual designated by the committee.
- e. Bob suggests Robert Thome and Monte Osterman for LWCB. He knows both of these individuals and knows they would do well.

12. Other Business

- a. Scott Goodwin gave an update on the shoreline stabilization guide. He wanted to thank this group for their \$500 contribution. 17,000 copies were printed. Iron county lead the distribution of these guides. If a County did not receive it contact Scott or Heather Palmquist, Iron County. The guide is also available on the WI Land+Water Website here: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/conservation-resources/shoreline>
- b. Michele Sadauskas – wanted to confirm that Oneida is hosting the spring organizational meeting. This is correct. Looking at early June for the spring meeting.
- c. Carolyn asked Scott when the summer tour may be. It is undecided at this time. Carolyn thanked Bob for serving in this organization. Others thanked him as well.
- d. Carolyn wanted to also thank Paul for his time in Conservation. Others in the group thanked him as well.

13. Adjourn at 11:10 a.m.

- 1. **Motion to adjourn made by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, seconded by Paul Daigle, Marathon County.**
  - a. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

**Next meetings:**

2022 Reorganizational/Spring Meeting – Oneida County (June)

<b>Host</b>			
	<b>Planning Meeting/ Area Poster &amp; Speaking Contest January/February</b>	<b>Reorganizational/ Spring Meeting May/June</b>	<b>Summer tour/Meeting August/September</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>	<b>FOREST</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>	<b>VILAS</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>	<b>WOOD</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>
<b>2026</b>	<b>VILAS</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>
<b>2027</b>	<b>WOOD</b>	<b>FOREST</b>	<b>ONEIDA</b>
<b>2028</b>	<b>FLORENCE</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>	<b>PORTAGE</b>
<b>2029</b>	<b>FOREST</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>	<b>VILAS</b>
<b>2030</b>	<b>LANGLADE</b>	<b>MARATHON</b>	<b>WOOD</b>
<b>2031</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER ALPHABETICAL</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER</b>	<b>REPEAT ORDER</b>

Minutes taken and prepared by Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County for Tracy Arnold – Portage County, NCLWCA Secretary

\*There were no handouts to include from the meeting. \*