



# NORTH CENTRAL AREA

## Land and Water Conservation Association

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

Meeting Date: 06-03-2022

**Meeting Location:** Virtual (Zoom) – Hosted by Oneida County

**In Attendance:** Scott Goodwin – Florence County, Steve Kircher – Forest County, Chris Arrowood – Langlade County, Tom Boisvert – Lincoln County, Kirk Langfoss – Marathon County, Kirstie Heidenreich – Marathon County, Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County, Jim Winkler – Oneida County, Robert Thome – Oneida County, Jonna Jewel – Oneida County, Linnaea Newman – Oneida County, Tracy Arnold – Portage County, Carolyn Scholl – Vilas County, Lynda Schweikert – Chippewa County, Rebecca Gray – Fond du Lac County

**Counties Present:** Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, Fond du Lac, and Chippewa

**Others Present:** Beckie Gaskill – Lakeland Times, Marybeth Kiczenski – Nighttime Photographer

1. Called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of those in attendance
3. Election of President
  - a. Michele Sadauskas nominated Jim Winkler, Seconded by Carolyn Scholl.
  - b. A motion to appoint Jim Winkler, Oneida County, as President – Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County, seconded by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County.**
    - i. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
4. Election of Representatives to WI Land+Water Board of Directors
  - a. LCC Representative
  - b. LCC Alternate
    - i. Carolyn Scholl gave an explanation as to how these elections take place, and what the LCC representative's roles are.
    - ii. A motion to appoint Jim Winkler, Oneida County as NCLWCA LCC Representative and Robert Thome, Oneida County as Alternate – Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County, seconded by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County.**
      - 1. Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**
  - c. LCD Representative
  - d. LCD Alternate
    - i. Carolyn Scholl gave an explanation as to how these elections take place, and what the LCD representative's roles are.
    - ii. A motion to appoint Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, as NCLWCA LCD Representative and Tracy Arnold, Portage County, as Alternate – Jim Winkler, Oneida County, seconded by Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County.**

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

5. Secretary's Report

- a. A motion to approve the minutes from January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, seconded by Tracy Arnold, Portage County.**

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

6. Treasurer's Report – Kirk Langfoss, Marathon County

- a. Kirk gave an update on the Association's finances. The association has not had a whole lot of expenses due to virtual meetings. Revenues are good since expenses are limited.
- b. Kirk suggested giving thought on how to use our incoming funds.
- c. Carolyn asked if the signing authorities have been changed. Kirk said he is listed as a signing authority on the bank accounts and Bob Mott. Since Bob Mott is no longer the President Kirk will look into the process for removing Bob's name, and get Jim Winkler signing authority on these accounts.

- i. A motion to approve the treasurer's report – Linnaea Newman, Oneida County, seconded by Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County.**

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

7. Approve 2023 Budget

- a. Kirk stated that WI Land+Water suggested that area associations should consider acquiring liability insurance. Discussion on this topic was held, but ultimately it was decided to place \$500 in the budget towards acquiring liability insurance.
- b. The liability insurance will cover the Association if something were to happen at an event – the summer tour is an example. It will also be helpful in hiring services for these events since some companies require proof of liability insurance.
- c. There was discussion about whether we should continue to grow our accounts or spend money in additional areas. The budget was revised from the previous year in various line items.
- d. In revising the budget, it was determined that the spring meeting will be held virtually each year. Line items associated with the spring meeting were changed.

- i. A motion for the spring meeting to be held virtually on an annual basis – Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, seconded by Tracy Arnold, Portage County.**

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

- e. A motion to approve the 2023 budget – Jim Winkler, Oneida County, seconded by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County.**

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

8. Youth Education Update – Submitted by Patty Benedict, Portage County

- a. Tracy Arnold gave an update in Patty's absence. All of the 2023 events are scheduled to be in person. All of the Conservation Camps are going well.
- b. The full report is attached to this document.

9. 2022 Summer Tour – Florence County

- a. Scott Goodwin gave an update. August 12<sup>th</sup> is the date scheduled for the summer tour.
- b. Scott has been working with the Savanna Institute to give a presentation on Agroforestry, and is intending to have another presentation on invasive species impacts/solutions.
- c. He has been working on bussing and food logistics for the event.
- d. Registrations to be distributed within the next two weeks.

10. County Updates

- a. Florence County

- i. Scott Goodwin gave an update.
  - ii. Currently their department is short staffed. They need 8 LTE's and they only have two.
  - iii. Inflation has caused some project bids to go much higher than anticipated. They are navigating how to fund these projects in light of higher prices.
  - iv. If any counties are looking to transfer bond funds Scott has shovel ready projects in need of funding.
  - v. Florence County is also gearing up for the summer tour.
- b. Forest County
  - i. Steve Kircher gave an update.
  - ii. Gearing up for the summer cost-share programs.
  - iii. High water issues on many lakes are causing landowners to place lakeshore fill. Working on resolving violations through County ordinance and WDNR.
  - iv. Steve is working through a potential manure violation in the county. There are cows in a creek that may be having an impact on the water resource.
- c. Langlade County
  - i. Chris Arrowood gave an update.
  - ii. Chris is dealing with limited staff as well. At the moment, Chris is completing everything within the department.
  - iii. Langlade County is trimming mileage and per-diems unless these are for statutory requirements.
  - iv. Educating the new LCC is a priority since there are many new members.
- d. Lincoln County
  - i. Tom Boisvert gave an update.
  - ii. Lincoln County was able to hire an AIS LTE for the summer season through LMPN funds.
  - iii. There is one grazing project, a lakeshore protection project, several planned grassed waterways, and 8 well decommissioning's planned.
  - iv. Carolyn Scholl asked how so many well decommissioning's got planned. Tom is working with the Lincoln County Forestry Department on these projects. The Forestry Department has unused wells that were a result of old homesteads, campgrounds, parks, etc.
  - v. Educating the new LCC is a priority since there are many new members.
- e. Marathon County
  - i. Kirstie Heidenreich gave an update.
  - ii. Marathon County just hired new grazing analyst to replace Bill Kolodziej. Brooke Benbeneck has filled this position.
  - iii. In the process of hiring a conservation specialist to fill the position that Brooke previously held. They are getting some good applications in, and are looking to fill the position soon.
  - iv. Marathon County may potentially update their groundwater protection plan. Well testing would be a large part of this process. Marathon CPZ has asked the County Board for \$400,000 to cover the cost of well testing. If that doesn't go through they will ask to use ARPA funds.
  - v. Marathon County was awarded a WDNR surface water grant. A good portion of this grant will be used towards removing invasive species on a 4 acre island. Restoration efforts will follow the invasive species removal. Multiple local and regional partners are involved in this project.

- vi. A new mentorship program is being implemented. Conservation Analysts will be training other CPZ staff (including zoning staff) on conservation programs. This will help ensure that the CPZ Department will keep a good knowledge base in all programs if staff changes occur.

f. Oneida County

- i. Michele Sadauskas gave an update.
- ii. Just completed a large native plant distribution project with the Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens (LNCC). Lincoln County and the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company were also partners in this project. Over 3,000 native plants were distributed at no cost to landowners on Lake Nokomis. The LNCC purchased these plants.
- iii. Stephanie Boismenu, the Oneida County AIS Coordinator is very busy. She has been completing lots of CBCW trainings throughout the County, and has/will be collaborating with Lincoln County on several items as well.
- iv. Educating the new LCC is a priority since there are many new members.
- v. The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP) has been doing great work throughout Oneida County. The annual meeting was held recently, and had great attendance from WHIP partners and the general public.

g. Portage County

- i. Tracy Arnold gave an update.
- ii. There are 21 Healthy Lakes and Rivers practices that are being implemented this field season.
- iii. Portage County does prairie presentations at local schools. This project explains the importance of pollinators and prairies. They are able to get the kids' hands dirty by planting prairie plants.
- iv. There are some lakeshore riprap projects going in. Many of these bids are coming back much higher than estimates.
- v. Working with Dollar General to eliminate Japanese knotweed from their fill. The fill around the building must have come from a knotweed infested area. They are working with Golden Sands to resolve the issue.

h. Wood County

- i. No report from Wood County.

i. Vilas County

- i. Carolyn Scholl gave an update.
- ii. The department is very busy as always.
- iii. Cathy Higley was working on lakes assessment project. Over time, deterioration is happening on Vilas county waterbodies. Carolyn will do a short presentation about this at their next County Board Meeting.
- iv. They have Two LTE's on board, and a third one is starting.
- v. Culvert inventory project is underway and they will be visiting 150 culverts this field season.
- vi. A large watershed protection project is underway.
- vii. AIS LTE is busy learning and will be monitoring for AIS throughout the County.
- viii. There is a local lake association that is wanting to become a lake district. Carolyn is helping in that process.

11. Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Report

- a. Robert Thome will now be a member of the LWCB.
- b. Term starts in January of 2023.

- c. Matt Krueger stated Robert Thome may start his term early since Bob Mott is no longer on Oneida County Board. The Board will come together to decide if this will happen.

12. Agency Reports

- a. Matt Krueger stated that Penny Pohle is retiring. Penny has been very instrumental in the training/education of LCC and LCD members throughout her years with WI Land+Water. Matt stated that Isabelle Paulsen will be stepping into this position. Isabelle has been with WI Land+Water for some time and will be a great fit for the position.

13. Other Business

- a. Tom Boisvert had asked if other Counties were having difficulty working with WDNR waterway staff. Availability and willingness to help with problem sites has been low.
- b. Carolyn stated that the WDNR is short staffed and they may be having problems with allocating time.

14. Adjourn at 12:05 a.m.

- 1. **Motion to adjourn made by Tom Boisvert, Lincoln County, seconded by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County.**

- a. **Vote: All ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

**Next meeting:**

2022 Summer Tour – Florence (August 12<sup>th</sup>)

<b>Host</b>			
	<b>Planning Meeting/ Area Poster &amp; Speaking Contest January/February</b>	<b>Virtual 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, NCLWCA Secretary

**Beyond the Business Meeting**

Presentations:

*Welcome New LCC Members* – Matt Krueger, Executive Director, WI Land+Water

*Don't Dim the Light of the Stars: Negative Effects of Light Pollution* – Mary Beth Kiczenski, Noted Nighttime Photographer

Both presentation were recorded and can be found on the WI Land+Water website.