



Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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Great Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 26, 2022 **Time:** 10:31- 11:46 a.m. **Location:** Zoom

Mission: Support, promote and develop WI Land+Water and county land and water programming to protect, conserve and enhance natural resources in the Great Lakes Basin.

Committee Members

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Coulthurst,
Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashley Vande Voort,
Vice Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Davina Bonness,
Sec. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timothy Detzer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Frank | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyler Betry | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Palmquist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Dolata | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MaryJo Gingras | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Sebo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Arrowood |

Non-Voting Advisors

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donalea Dinsmore,
Office of Great Waters | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Friis, DOA WI
Coastal Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Breiby, DOA
WI Coastal
Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zach Zopp, DATCP |
|---|---|--|--|

WI Land+Water Staff Liaison (*non-voting*)

- Isabelle Paulsen, Treasurer

WI Land+Water meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person, via conference phone, or via web conference if desired. Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair. Please inform your chair if you cannot attend.

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE

- I. **Call to order:** Greg Coulthurst called the meeting to order at 10:31am.
- II. **Roll Call:** See above.
 - a. Others online: Zach Stewart (Douglas), Jeremy Freund (Outagamie); Sheri Denowski (Marinette), Dave Wetenkamp (Manitowoc)
- III. **Approval of the agenda:** Ashley Vande Voort made the motion; Paul Sebo seconded.

- IV. **Approval of the minutes:** Davina Bonness made the motion; Tim Detzer seconded. Scott Frank noticed one spelling error under item #7 which will be corrected.
- V. **Committee Chair and Vice Chair Elections:**
- a. Davina Bonness nominated Greg Coulthurst for Chair and Paul Sebo seconded; Greg accepted. Committee was unanimously in favor of the nomination.
 - b. Scott Frank nominated Ashley Vande Voort for Vice Chair and Greg seconded; Ashley accepted. Committee was unanimously in favor of the nomination.
- VI. **Secretary and Treasurer appointments:** Scott Frank was appointed as Secretary and Isabelle Paulsen as Treasurer.
- VII. **Reports:**
- a. Todd Breiby (Coastal Management): Sent his report, attached below.
 - b. Donalea Dinsmore (WDNR): Sent her report, attached below. She highlighted:
 - i. Environmental Justice will be a factor in federal grants. Great Lakes restoration initiative has areas of concern with projects for disadvantaged communities.
 - ii. DOT webinar: TODAY AT 12:30pm. Grant for culvert replacement, removal, and repair.
 - iii. Army Corp: nutrient and sediment reduction projects; green infrastructure
 - iv. Great Lakes sediment reduction grant program coming out in February. It is for \$200K with a 25% match.
 - v. Groundwater Drinking water program survey of private wells focused on PFAS screening. No results yet.
 - c. Zach Zopp: DATCP: Sent his report, attached below. He highlighted:
 - i. Crop insurance rebate program (applications in December 2022)
 - ii. Nitrogen optimization program funds (early November application)
 - iii. New Advisory committee on research (with the LWCB) to oversee and advise the University of Wisconsin system on soil and water needs.
 - d. Treasurer's Report: No expenses for 2022; \$12,444.79 balance
- VIII. **Mini Grant Applications:**
- a. Douglas County Spiny Water Flea. Ashley Vande Voort and Zach Stewart gave an update. The project went well. It was about preventing the spread of Spiny Water Flea (the update/report/reimbursement request was sent to the group). Motion to process the cost sharing was made by motion by MaryJo Gingras and seconded by Scott Frank. Unanimous by the committee.
 - b. Second mini grant: Zach Stewart gave an update on a 2 year installation of 3 AIS stations in Douglas. It went well minus permitting issues. The signs were donated; 3 total are installed. Pending the final report, a motion to process the cost sharing was made by motion by MaryJo Gingras and seconded by Tyler Betry. Unanimous by committee.
- IX. **Principles / Work Plan Review:**
- a. Greg Coulthurst will make the edits (updated) and get it posted on the website. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please let Greg know.
 - b. Ashland County is interested in hosting the 2023 tour!
- X. **Recycling Initiative Update (MaryJo Gingras):**
- a. Workgroup started "Plastics recycling workgroup." A number of people across Wisconsin are included. First meeting was held for ideas and interests. Nov 1st is the next meeting. The goal is to provide education and to act on plastics reduction. If you are interested, let MaryJo know.
- XI. **Webinars:**
- a. One Map for the December meeting or February. Will connect with Jim State (GIO) & Larry (WDNR).

- XII. **Next meeting dates:** Schedule as needed, December 2022 if an application for mini-grant comes in, otherwise February 2023.
- XIII. **Adjourn:** motion to adjourn at 11:46am by Scott Frank and seconded by MaryJo Gingras. Unanimous by committee.



**Department of Administration
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP)**

**Great Lakes Committee
October 2022 Meeting**

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)

NOAA Coastal Appropriations through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law include \$207 million over 5 years for the National Coastal Zone Management Program. The goal of the competitive funding is to protect and restore ecologically significant habitats. WCMP can apply to NOAA for projects that include habitat restoration, habitat restoration design and engineering, and ecosystem conservation through land acquisitions.

- WCMP and Bayfield County are seeking funding to acquire 2,001 acres of land with ecologically significant habitat that is vital to the health and functioning of Lake Superior's coastal resources. The land is in the Sand and Siskiwit River watersheds within the Lake Superior basin.
- WCMP, in partnership with the State GIO, Wisconsin DNR, and Brown County, is applying for capacity funding to develop a coastal GIS pilot project that will develop critical geospatial data layers needed to support habitat restoration and conservation projects.

Great Lakes Coastal and Nearshore Habitat Project

The Coastal States Organization, NOAA and Great Lakes state coastal management programs continue to implement Phase II of the Great Lakes Coastal and Nearshore Habitat Assessment Project. The objective of Phase I of the project was to identify shared coastal management principles, goals, priorities, and data needs across the Great Lakes states, and identify place-based habitat assessment and restoration actions and needs for future implementation. Phase II activities included:

- With funding from NOAA, benthic habitat maps were developed using the CMECS classification standard on the west of shore of Green Bay, from Long Tail Point to north of Menominee, MI. Work was completed in 2021.
- WCMP, Marinette County LWCD, and Wisconsin DNR submitted a proposal to CSO and NOAA for the Peshtigo River Streambank Protection and Enhancement Project. The proposal was awarded, and project partners are developing design and engineering plans (60-80%) to improve streambank stabilization and enhance habitat at two sites on the Peshtigo River in Marinette County.
- WCMP is looking for partners to develop a proposal to submit to CSO and NOAA to develop design and engineering plans (60-80%) to enhance and restore coastal and nearshore habitat, both through a current RFP and future RFPs.

Collaborative Action for Lake Michigan (CALM) Coastal Resilience

WCMP, WI Sea Grant, and the WI State Cartographer's Office launched CALM in 2021 with funding from NOAA's Projects of Special Merit. CALM works with communities along

Wisconsin's entire Lake Michigan shoreline to sustain, strengthen and connect existing regional coastal resilience networks to expand collaboration. This effort works to support development of local policies and plans, and coordinate the regional prioritization of hazard needs. More information can be found at Wisconsin Coastal Resilience, <https://wicoastalresilience.org/>.

Coastal Hazards of Superior (CHAOS)

CHAOS is a coastal hazard Community of Practice sharing knowledge and resources to protect Minnesota and Wisconsin coasts of western Lake Superior. CHAOS is a platform for engaging local community leaders, government agencies, managers, researchers, and communicators with a shared concern about coastal hazards and their impacts. The Steering Committee (WCMP, MN CMP, MN and WI Sea Grant, and Lake Superior NERR) work with the CHAOS Coordinator to deliver coastal hazard technical assistance to local and tribal governments and stakeholders.

Wisconsin Coastal Management Data Infrastructure (WICDI) Project

Through a NOAA Projects of Special Merit Grant, the WCMP, WI State Cartographer's Office, and the WI Geographic Information Officer are providing data, tools, and training to Wisconsin's Lake Superior coastal communities to help tackle a key issue in the region: culvert damage during extreme rain events. This project assists culvert managers in responding to damages or identify vulnerable culverts. Partners will be expanding this project to Lake Michigan through CALM in 2022. For more information, please visit <https://wicdi.org/>.

Proposed Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

WCMP staff continue to provide support and technical assistance to UW-Green Bay through the Site Coordination and Site Evaluation Committees on the development of the Green Bay NERR. For more information on the proposed Green Bay NERR please visit <https://www.uwgb.edu/national-estuarine-research-reserves/>.

Wisconsin Clean Marina program

WI Sea Grant, WCMP, Wisconsin Marina Association and other partners continue to implement the WI Clean Marina Program. The program looks to improve water quality by working directly with marinas and the marine industry to implement best management practices to reduce pollution, enhance habitat, address invasive species, etc. Several marinas in Wisconsin's coastal zone have recently been certified and re-certified as clean marinas. For more information, please visit <https://wisconsincleanmarina.org/>. Additional activities include:

- Through funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, green infrastructure and stormwater management practices were designed, engineered, and installed at Barkers Island Marina in Superior. Monitoring is currently underway.
- Through funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan, design and engineering plans are being developed to install stormwater practices and a boat wash station at Kewaunee Marina's public boat launch. Additional coastal marinas are under consideration for design and engineering work.

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program – Grants

WCMP is currently seeking grant applications to enhance, preserve, protect, and restore resources within the state's coastal zone. WCMP anticipates awarding up to \$1.6 million in grant funding. The 2023-24 RFP was announced in August 2022 and grant applications are due November 4, 2022. For more information go to <http://coastal.wisconsin.gov>.

DATE: October 25, 2022

TO: Greg Coulthurst , Chair
Great Lakes Committee of WLWCA

FROM: Donalea Dinsmore
Office of Great Waters, WDNR

SUBJECT: WDNR Report for October 2022 Committee Meeting

Funding Opportunities coming from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grants: This 5-year program will fund replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that will improve or restore fish passage. Eligible applicants include State and local governments and Tribes. US DOT is hosting a [webinar](#) for potential applicants on **October 26 at 12:30 PM** Central Time. The webinar will be recorded.

Fish and Wildlife Service will also be opening a similar funding opportunity soon:
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-fish-passage>)

Federal Grants are emphasizing Environmental Justice, Climate Change, & Coastal Resilience
Upcoming funding opportunities, including GLRI, are focusing on Environmental Justice and Climate Change. (e.g. the recent NOAA opportunity focused on underserved communities).. With the emphasis on Coastal resiliency, planning and project funding resources are becoming available.

Within GLRI, an “Environmental Justice considerations” section is intended to draw attention to how historically excluded (from environmental decision-making) communities have been involved in developing the project, and/or how the needs these communities have identified will be met with the project, and/or how the project can improve community health, and/or how they may benefit (through employment opportunities, etc), or other aspects of EJ.

GLNPO will be looking for environmental justice focused projects in Areas of Concern to include water and green space related recreation with funding provided through the state.

Reminder: Look back at the USACE presentation on their program authorizations. They can provide funding for planning nutrient reduction projects in the Great Lakes and authorities extend to implementation in the Lake Superior basin..

Great Lakes Commission – Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Grants

Only one Wisconsin applicant in the last funding cycle and many fewer ag-related projects. Expect next RFP to come out in February 2023. – Awards up to \$200,000 with 25% match. August Conference in Ohio brought together grantees to share experience and ideas about engagement and climate resilience..

Lakewide Action and Management Plans

The 2021 Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) Annual Reports for Lakes [Michigan](#) and [Superior](#) are now available. Stacy Hron is the Lake Michigan Coordinator and Lacy Hill-Kastern is the Lake Superior Coordinator. They are good resource people for aligning projects and funding opportunities.

DATE: October 26, 2022

TO: Greg Coulthurst
Door County SWCD

FROM: Zach Zopp
Bureau of Land and Water Resources, DATCP

SUBJECT: DATCP Report for the October 2022 Great Lakes Committee Meeting

Soil and Water Resources Management Grants

- Requests to transfer grant funds between counties are due to DATCP by December 1, 2022.
- Future cost-share grant awards will not be impacted by unspent extended cost-share funds.

Commercial N-Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) & Crop Insurance rebates for cover crops

- DATCP is expected to release the RFP for the [nitrogen optimization pilot program](#) in early November.
- Each party, within a group NOPP grant application is eligible for the full grant amount.
- DATCP will not use NOPP funding to support unfunded Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants (PLWPG). Applicable unfunded PLWPG applicants should submit a separate NOPP application.
- DATCP has \$800,000 in funding available to offer Crop Insurance rebates for planting cover crops in 2023 on 2022 cover crops. DATCP is expected to start taking applications for cover crop rebates in December. Program information is available [at this link](#).

Nutrient Management News

- There is a brand-new Nutrient Management Training Webpage where you can find links to previously recorded trainings: [DATCP Home Nutrient Management Training](#)

Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans

- The LWCB recently created a standing committee to advise the Board on its duty to advise the University of Wisconsin System annually on needed research and educational programs relating to soil and water conservation. This committee is known as the Advisory Committee on Research (Committee). In November, the Committee will begin to solicit input from various stakeholders, including county LCD's, on the soil and water conservation research and education topics they believe are most critical to their interests.

DATCP Staff Updates

- The Soil and Watershed Management Section hired Randy Zogbaum to staff the Soil and Watershed Health Conservation Specialist position. Randy comes to DATCP from UW Discovery Farms, where he was the Soil Health Outreach Specialist. Randy will start on November 21, 2022.