

**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 26, 2022**  
**Via Zoom Meeting**

1. Introductions & Business

- Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Todd Jenson
- Approval of Agenda: motion by Columbia/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- Roll Call of Counties: Columbia- 2 staff; Dane- 2 staff; Dodge- 0; Grant- 2 staff; Green- 2 staff 1 LCC; Iowa- 1 staff; Jefferson- 1 staff; Lafayette- 2 staff 1 LCC; Richland- 1 staff; Rock- 1 staff; Sauk- 1 staff. Others: Matt Krueger
- Elections:
  - i. President: Luke McGuire nominated by Columbia/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grant
  - ii. Vice President: Kurt Calkins nominated by Dane/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richland
  - iii. Secretary/Treasurer: Tess Wallner appointed by Green
  - iv. LCC Representative: Melissa Luck nominated by Richland/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dane
  - v. Staff Representative: Amy Piaget nominated by Columbia/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grant
  - vi. LCC Alternative: Sue Nelson nominated by Green/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richland
  - vii. Staff Alternative: Kurt Calkins nominated by Grant/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richland
- October Minutes: motion by Dane/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Iowa to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- Treasurers Report: motion by Richland/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lafayette to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

2. LCC Training

- Matt Krueger of WI Land & Water gave presentation to welcome and orientate new LCC members

3. Liability Insurance

- Counties decided to take time to look into and will revisit topic at later date

4. SAA Summer Tour

- Lafayette County looking for input on what people are interested in seeing and dates that work for others
- Discussed food and dairy farm visits

5. DNR Permitting

- Multiple counties mentioned needing more communication from DNR on permitting issues and not knowing who to contact when needed

6. SWIGG

- Iowa County looking into factors of contamination and proper well construction, having decreased interest in program

7. Agency Updates

- None present

8. County Roundtable

- Columbia: coal plant to shut down within next 5 years, incoming solar projects, started producer led council for Lake Wisconsin, budget for UW-extension agriculture agent reallocated to county department for new ag outreach position, successful survey from public for structuring new position
- Dane: office is reopened, RCPP started for Yahara and Sugar River, Middleton digester is using methane compressing, renew the blue initiative lost
- Grant: zoning, SWIGG, solar and wind projects, national water quality initiative, decreased interest from public in conservation projects
- Iowa: trying to fill position, report on phosphorous from eroding streambanks
- Jefferson: second year with cover crop and pasture establishment cost sharing with increasing interest, two producer led groups, two solar projects, liquid natural gas plant had some push back but moving forward, meeting new UW-extension agents, RCPP PACE, their GIS position moved to the land information department so they are looking to form new restoration focused position
- Lafayette: trying to get more staff, MDV funds, SWIGG reporting
- Richland: technician position empty and needing to rely on DATCP engineering staff, committee structure changed to “Land & Zoning Standing”, looking to have cover crop workshop with a county CAFO, office will be moving to courthouse in the fall
- Sauk: county farm master plan approved to have demonstration plots and expanding the pasture, intern is doing lake shoreline habitat assessment, water quality trade agreement with county township, MDV funding, ordered early for tree sale and used online ordering system
- Green: new producer led group, CREP, two youth conservation days for county 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders

9. Motion by Jefferson/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grant to adjourn. Next meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2022