

2018 WI Land+Water Annual Conference Breakout Sessions

CEUs will be noted when they are approved.

Wednesday, March 14

1:45-2:45pm

Food, Land & Water Project Update (Session 1 of 2).

The Food, Land & Water Project Conference in October 2017 consisted of some lively discussions and presented many insights and strategies toward a more sustainable future. Hear a recap of the conference and learn about the progress and action plans developed in the months that have followed.

County Presentations #1. 1) *Unlikely Partnership in Jackson Creek Watershed.* Brian Smetana, Walworth County LURM, shares his experience working with a variety of partners on water quality in the shadow of the city of Elkhorn. Land with potential development but also excessive pollutant loading to Jackson Creek took multiple partners, commitment and time to implement conservation practices on this land. 2) *Indian Lake Carp Removal-Woeful Weather and a Hail Mary.* Common Carp removal using rotenone is a proven method for rough fish removal. Sound science and planning are sometimes not enough to get the desired results you need. Pete Jopke, Dane County LWRD, will provide an overview of lessons learned and the next steps for rehabilitating a shallow lake which is the centerpiece of a popular Dane County Park.

Rotational Grazing, Setups, Challenges, and Economics. Adam Abel, NRCS, will discuss proven techniques for setting up rotational grazing/rotational grazing conversions from row crops. Also covered will be the challenges that new producers and conservationists need to consider to make the transition successful, as well as the economics of rotational grazing.

Waste Management Standards Update Session. Amy Moore, NRCS, will provide a brief overview of the new NRCS waste management standards and specifications, with time for Q&A.

Roofs: Cost-sharing and Accepting Designs. This session is intended to give a general overview of how the Roofs and Covers practice standard can be used with DATCP or DNR cost-share and NRCS financial assistance. It will also cover the procedure for obtaining, reviewing and accepting roofs plans and designs in order satisfy program requirements. Speakers: Mike Dreischmeier, NRCS; Matt Woodrow, DATCP; and Ann Hirekatur, WDNR. **1 Engineering Professional Development Hour**

3:15-4:15pm

Food, Land, and Water Project Update (Continued - Session 2 of 2). The Food, Land & Water Project Conference in October 2017 consisted of some lively discussions and presented many insights and strategies toward a more sustainable future. Hear a recap of the conference and learn about the progress and action plans developed in the months that have followed.

Expanding County Conservation Efforts with RCPP. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) offers new opportunities for the NRCS, conservation partners and agricultural producers to work together to expand the conservation mission. Come hear an overview of RCPP in Wisconsin and how Sauk County has used RCPP to accelerate conservation in the Baraboo River Watershed. Speakers: Gus Johnson, Sauk County CP&Z and Matt Otto, NRCS.

Edge of Field Water Quality Projects: Data Updates and Opportunities for Involvement. Jeremy Freund, Outagamie County LCD, and Amber Radatz, UW Discovery Farms, will share updates from on-farm monitoring studies and demonstrations around the state. Hear the latest science on cover crops, concentrated flow areas, wetlands, and soil health. The session includes information from UW Discovery Farms on how to get involved with their current projects and what resources are available for you.

Connecting Landowners and Farm Operators with Conservation. It is apparent that the connection between the landowners and operators has become one of only monetary concerns. Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County SWCD, is looking to start a conversation to bring conservation into the arrangement. He has proposed a tiered system where operators are rewarded for implementing conservation practices above and beyond with lower rent costs.

Groundwater Susceptibility Mapping. Have you ever wished you could see what happens beneath the ground surface? While there is no magic camera to show you, there are tools to help you imagine it. Madeline Gotkowitz from Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey has been helping counties focus their image by developing a mapping tool to better understanding the connection between land surface and groundwater. She will explain the benefits and things to consider when developing one. Dan Masterpole from Chippewa County and Kurt Calkins from Columbia County will also share experiences from their counties efforts in creating, utilizing, and updating their mapping tools.

Thursday, March 15

8:00-9:15am

County Presentations #2. 1) *Maintaining a Successful AIS Program through Shared Services and Partnerships*, Bradley Steckart, Washington and Waukesha Counties. Partnering with lake organizations has increased AIS program involvement in Southeast Wisconsin. Bradley will discuss how maintaining an AIS program through grant writing and partnerships, as well as funding from lake districts/associations, has contributed to a program that is supported and driven by the community. 2) *County support: the backbone for building continuity, trust, and a healthier environment.* Michele Sadauskas and Stephanie Boismenu will share how in 2007, Oneida County hired its first full-time AIS Coordinator; funded by the taxpayers of Oneida County. Although a position was now in place to help protect their lakes from AIS, the road was bumpy and winding. It took a number of years, and employees, to build trust within the community and see a thriving, effective program.

Grade Stabilization Structures for Erosion Control. Using time tested engineering techniques to address gully erosion. Speakers: Peter M. Wurzer and Drew Zelle, DATCP. **1 Engineering Professional Development Hour**

Effectively Engaging Your Audiences for Behavior Change. All of our work depends on effectively engaging our audiences to change their actions. Social science should be informing our engagement work. Learn from two programs using social science to bring about conservation behavior change. Speakers: Jeremy Solin, ThinkWater/UW-Extension, and Ryan Stockwell, National Wildlife Federation.

Multi-Discharge Variance - Wisconsin DNR Update. Andrew Craig and Amy Garbe will review the number of facilities who have applied for the MDV, how much MDV \$ may be available by county, and review MDV requirements for counties after applying for and receiving MDV funds. Q&A session will follow the review.

Climate Change Adaptation Workbook: Helping land managers respond to climate change. The Adaptation Workbook (adaptationworkbook.org) is a structured process to consider the potential effects of climate change in land management and conservation, and a tool to design custom adaptation responses at a scale relevant to your work. This session is of interest to those managing agriculture and forest lands, and water resources. Speaker: Danielle Shannon, USDA Climate Hub & NIACS.

9:45-11:00am

Roller-Crimping and Cover Crop-based Reduced Tillage as a Tool for Land Conservation. Building soil health and maintaining soil resources are themes that are increasingly discussed across all sectors of agriculture. This session discusses the practice of cover crop-based reduced tillage with the roller-crimper as a tool to increase soil health and reduce erosion across Wisconsin's agricultural landscape. Speaker: Dr. Erin

Silva, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Nutrient Management in Wisconsin: Moving beyond the low-hanging fruit. Looking for ways to encourage more nutrient management planning in your county? Want to hear from other counties about their nutrient management-related challenges and get new ideas? Come to this session to better understand how existing programs can encourage nutrient management planning (beyond farmland preservation). You will also learn about strategies others are using to successfully engage with farmers to sign-up for cost-sharing to develop nutrient management plans. The session will also provide an overview of nutrient management from a statewide perspective. Speakers: Sara Walling, DATCP; Chase Cummings, Pepin County; Tony Smith, Manitowoc County SWCD; and Lynda Schweikert, Grant County CSZD.

Hands-On Conservation for the Classroom. Join Youth Education Committee members as they demonstrate interactive hands-on conservation programs that you can use to promote youth education programs in the classroom and in your county. Experience activities and models designed around conservation programs that promote water, soils, pollinators, and forestry. Speakers: Tracy Arnold, Wood Co. LWCD; Karyn Eckert, Taylor Co. LCD; Kirstie Heidenreich, Trempealeau Co. LCD; Nikki Raimer, Outagamie Co. LCD; and Michele Sadauskas, Oneida Co. LWCD.

Monitoring and Assessing Lakes and Watersheds – Opportunities for and Examples of Successful Collaboration between DNR and County Conservation Staff. Wisconsin DNR recently updated its Statewide Water Resources Monitoring Strategy to help ensure timely and efficient collection of water quality, habitat, and biological information on surface waters in Wisconsin. The purpose of the monitoring is to support Clean Water Act goals of documenting status and trends, identifying problems and priorities for management, and evaluating successful implementation of management practices. A key part of this strategy is to engage partners, including county staff and volunteers, in implementation activities, from helping identify priority watersheds, lakes, and streams, to participating in data collection, engaging with landowners and volunteers, and helping incorporate results into management plans. This presentation will provide an overview of DNR's current monitoring and assessment approaches and focus on opportunities for collaborations between DNR and County Conservation staff through examples and case studies involving local DNR and county staff. Speakers: TBA

Vegetated Swale and Site Evaluation for Storm Water Infiltration for Use in Construction. The DNR updated technical standards for 1005 Vegetated Swales and 1002 Site Evaluation for Storm Water Infiltration. Jan Kucher and Kimberly Gonzalez, WDNR, will provide an overview of the technical standards and how they can be used. **1 Engineering Professional Development Hour**

1:15-2:30pm

DNR Water Regulations. What is allowable, specific to shoreland zoning on lakes. **AWAITING SESSION DETAILS** Speaker: Kyle McLaughlin, WDNR.

How Manure Application Timing Impacts Phosphorus Loss in Runoff. Phosphorus loss in runoff from fields can be a source of pollution in local water bodies. Manure applied to fields can be an important source of phosphorus loss. Peter Vadas, USDA-ARS Dairy Forage Research Center, will discuss the hydrology and management process that control manure phosphorus loss and how they apply to issues of winter manure spreading and avoiding storms when spreading.

Tapping Into Fresh Ideas - County Approaches to Addressing Groundwater. Thinking about launching a groundwater program in your county? Chase Cummings from Pepin County and Jerry Halverson and Bruce Riesterer from Manitowoc County will be discussing their approaches to addressing drinking water contamination. They will share their experiences and answer your questions about mapping susceptibility using

LIDAR, building local partnerships, creating monitoring programs, and working with landowners to reduce risks of contamination.

Strengthening the LCC/LCD Partnership. Join LCC supervisors Kriss Marion, Lafayette County; Bob Mott, Oneida County; and Monte Osterman, Racine County, as they share their experiences in working as a team with their LCDs. Each will discuss the benefits of a strong relationship with their LCD, lessons learned, and advice for newer supervisors. There will be plenty of time for Q&A.

Improving Water Quality with On-farm Prairie Filter Strips. Research from Iowa State University's STRIPS project shows that establishing native perennial vegetation on small portions of farm fields can provide disproportionately large benefits of nutrient and sediment filtration. Sand County Foundation is working with farmers, conservation partners, and University researchers to introduce this practice in southern Wisconsin, predict environmental and economic outcomes, and communicate results. Sand County Foundation staff Craig Ficenc and Greg Olson will introduce the prairie strips pilot project and installation methods. Former Washington County Land Conservation Committee chairman Dan Stoffel will share his experience establishing prairie strips on his farm, and Dr. Laura Ward Good, Senior Scientist at the UW Department of Soil Science, will describe modeling of prairie strips performance in SnapPlus.

3:00-4:15pm

Making Sense of the LCD's Role in Trading or Adaptive Management. This session will focus on working with municipalities (expectations), working with consultants, and basic information LCD staff can assist with for WQ Trades; types of information and correct data needed to formulate trading; review of some common models and the process to determine the amount of credit generated for a cropland practice(s); and an actual real-life example WQ Trade. Speakers: Andrew Craig and Amy Garbe, WNDR and Bob Micheel, Monroe County LCD.

Conservation Farmer of the Year. Come meet the 2018 Conservation Farmer of the Year and hear about their farm before they are honored at the evening awards banquet. As the winner, they will host Conservation Observance Day in 2018. You'll hear from LCD staff who hosted past Conservation Observance Days as they share their event planning experiences.

Anaerobic Digestion: A tool in the toolbox of organic waste management. This session will explore the multifaceted role that anaerobic digestion may play in the management of organic waste from a diversity of sources. The technology differences, possible applications, as well as the pros and cons of AD technologies will be explored. Speaker: Dr. Greg Kleinheinz, UW-Oshkosh.

Evaluating Whether a Discharge is "Significant." DATCP and DNR staff will go through methodology for evaluating discharges from feed storage areas, milkhouse waste systems, and feed lots. This session will cover guidance on how to document discharges and use existing tools and resources to aid in developing a statewide consistent approach in determining whether a discharge is "significant." Speakers: Travis Buckley and Patrick Schultz, DATCP and Mike Gilbertson, WDNR. **1 Engineering Professional Development Hour**

Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) Collaborating with Land Conservation Staff. Improving the working relationship with on-farm conservation issues. Speakers TBD.

Friday, March 16

8:00-9:00am

How Can a Collaboration of Wisconsin's Agricultural Leadership help Farmers Implement the State Performance Standards?

The Wisconsin Agricultural Performance Standards have been in place since 2002, yet groundwater and surface water quality problems persist. The extent and quality of implementation is highly variable geographically and progress is largely anecdotal, but most agree full implementation of the standards will

require much more work. What role do we all play in a broad collaboration to achieve meaningful implementation and better water quality? Speakers include: Paul Zimmerman, Wisconsin Farm Bureau; John Holevoet, Dairy Business Association; Wisconsin Association of Professional Ag Consultants – TBD; and Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County Conservationist

Groundwater Resource Management in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. National Forests manage groundwater and groundwater dependent resources. Recently the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Northern Wisconsin, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and USGS, completed a multi-year baseline study of the groundwater hydrogeology. Speaker: Gregory Knight, USDA Forest Service.

How Frames Affect Perceptions of Watershed Issues. Framing helps communicate why an issue matters, how it can be defined differently, who or what may be responsible, and what should be done. In this session we will look at some common frames for water issues and discuss how these help or hinder our efforts. Speaker: Kristin Runge, UW-Extension.

NR 135 Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program Updates. Zoe McManama, WDNR, will discuss current and emerging issues in nonmetallic mining reclamation regulation and program administration.

Drone Use in Conservation 2.0. As a follow up to last year's presentations by Green Lake and Florence Counties, advancements in drone use for conservation will be presented on by Outagamie and Florence Counties. This session will present on Outagamie County's policy development, lessons learned in acquiring imagery, the use of submarine drones for invasive species work, and other case studies in applying drone technology to conservation work. Equipment will be on hand to view and discuss.

9:15-10:15am

What Your Nose Doesn't Know - Air Monitoring for Your Safety. Manure and silo gases are not new in production agriculture. As production systems changed, risks from exposure to these gases changed too. This session will cover manure and silo gases and their characteristic and help to develop an understanding of using personal monitoring devices to monitor exposure. Speaker: Cheryl Skjolaas, University of Wisconsin Madison/Extension.

Manure Spreading Restrictions - Revisions to NR 151. NR 151 is being revised to identify how manure spreading should be modified where there is shallow soil over karst topography. For this revision, the sensitive area is defined as the Silurian Dolomite geology in the eastern part of the state. The restrictions are to minimize pathogen movement. Speaker: Mary Anne Lowndes, WDNR.

Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin. Wisconsin is home to 19 species of amphibians and 36 species of reptiles. Rori Paloski, WDNR, will cover the species found in Wisconsin, as well as their habitats, with an emphasis on rare species. Several current research projects conducted by the DNR will be discussed, as well as opportunities for citizen involvement.

Waterway and Wetland Programmatic Updates. This session will focus on technical improvements to the wetland potential mapping layer and other programmatic updates within the waterway and wetland program and DNR. Speaker: Amanda Minks, WDNR.

Water Quality Information Use and Responses to Extreme Storms by Soil and Water Conservation Offices. Soil and water conservation professionals are on the front lines of conservation and responding to changing conditions. Learn how Land+Water staff are using water quality information and responding to extreme storms, based on interviews and a survey of 286 conservationists in Wisconsin and the north central U.S. Speaker: Dr. Adena Rissman, UW-Madison.