

Food • Land • & Water

Toward a Sustainable Wisconsin



Food, Land and Water Conference

Osthoff Resort Conference Center – Elkhart Lake, WI

October 16-17, 2017

AGENDA

DAY 1: October 16, 2017

8:30 - Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 - Welcome

Food, Land and Water Project Co-Chairs:

- Patricia Leavenworth, Retired State Conservationist (USDA- NRCS)
- Tom Lyon, Retired CEO, Cooperative Resources International; Former Chair, UW Board of Regents

9:20 - Food, Land and Water: Can Wisconsin Find Its Way?

Jim VandenBrook – Executive Director, WI Land+Water

- Can we have vibrant agriculture *and* clean, safe water?
- What will it take? How do we make it happen?
- How do *you* want to move forward?

9:30 - The Legal, Financial, and Community Challenges & Opportunities for Conservation

Panel Presentations:

Paul Kent – Attorney, Stafford Rosenbaum LLC

- How does Wisconsin regulate surface water and groundwater?
- How does Wisconsin water law apply to agriculture?

Paul Dietmann – Senior Lending Officer, Compeer Financial

- How do farmers (and bankers) make farm business decisions?
- Do “downstream” environmental costs figure into farm business decisions? If so, how?

Kevin Shafer – Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

- Milwaukee’s investment in clean water and watershed protection.
- How can urban communities and farmers solve their shared problems?
- *Audience Questions and Comments*

10:45 - Surface Water Quality: The Phosphorus Challenge

- *The Challenge* – Pat Murphy, USDA NRCS retired (Workgroup facilitator)
- *A Notable Recent Effort* – Silver Creek Watershed, NE Wisconsin (Video)



- *Reactor Panel* – The challenge from different perspectives:
 - Paul Zimmerman – Exec. Director of Governmental Relations, WI Farm Bureau
 - Jim Bauman – WI DNR retired
 - Dick Lamers – Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association
 - Bill Hafs – Director of Environmental Programs, NewWater
 - Darin Von Ruden – President, WI Farmers Union
 - John Holevoet - Director of Government Affairs, WI Dairy Business Association
- *Audience Questions and Comments*

Noon - Lunch

Presentation on *Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation*

Bob Martini, DNR retired

Connecting the public, media, and legislators to science: Wisconsin's Green Fire will help local units of government, nonprofit organizations, media, decision makers and citizens get the scientific information they need to address local and regional issues.

1:00 - Groundwater Quality: The Nitrate and Pathogen Challenge

- *The Challenge* – Ed Odgers, DATCP retired (Workgroup facilitator)
- *Notable Recent Efforts* – Peninsula Pride Farmer-Led Project (Don Niles, farmer) and Kewaunee Groundwater Protection Ordinance (Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County)
- *Reactor Panel* – The challenge from different perspectives:
 - Chuck Wagner – Well owner, Kewaunee LCC
 - Kevin Masarik – Groundwater Education Specialist, UW Stevens Point
 - Mark Borhardt – Microbiologist, USDA-ARS
 - John Pagel – Farmer, Kewaunee County LCC Chair
 - Don Bennett – Hartung Brothers (Wisconsin farming business)
- *Audience Questions and Comments*

2:25 - Groundwater Pumping: The Central Sands Shared Resource Challenge

- *The Challenge* – Don Last, UWEX retired (Workgroup facilitator)
- *Notable Recent Efforts* – The Lake Connection: Implementing 2017 Wisconsin Act 10 (Adam Freihoefer), and An Introduction to the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project (Erin O'Brien, WI Wetlands)
- *Reactor Panel* - The challenge from different perspectives:
 - Skip Hansen – Lakeshore land owner, Central Sands Water Action Coalition
 - Mike Carter – CEO, Bushman's Inc.
 - Ken Bradbury – Director, WI Geological and Natural History Survey
 - Tamas Houlihan – Executive Director, WI Potato Vegetable Growers Association
 - Kara O'Connor – Government Relations Director, WI Farmers Union
- *Audience Questions and Comments*

3:50 - Working Lands: The Challenge of Dwindling Farmland

- *The Challenge* – Margaret Krome, Program Director, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (Workgroup facilitator)
- *Strengths and Weaknesses of Our Current Approach* – Alison Volk, Bureau of Land and Water Resources, DATCP



- *Reactor Panel* – The challenge from different perspectives:
 - Anna Haines – Director of Center for Land Use Education, UW Steven Point
 - Mike Koles – Executive Director, WI Towns Association
 - Tom Quinn – Executive Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union
- *Audience Questions and Comments*

5:00 - Social (hors d'oeuvres)

Dinner on your own

Day 2: October 17, 2017

7:00 - Breakfast

8:30 - Today: A Chance for YOU to Chart the Way Forward

Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director, WI Land+Water

9:00 - Focus Groups to Address Critical Challenges

- Attend one of 4 Focus Groups (your choice):
 - A. Surface Water Quality
 - B. Groundwater Quality
 - C. Groundwater Quantity (Central Sands)
 - D. The Future of Wisconsin's Working Lands
- Review Stakeholder Workgroup recommendations (developed over the past year):
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Strategies to Achieve the Objectives
- Vote for your priorities and preferences (secret ballot)
- Identify Focus Group recommendations, based on voting
- Identify efforts that you could support, in concert with others

11:30 - Lunch

Presentation on *Minnesota's Legacy Amendment (Clean Water Fund)*.

John Jaschke, Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Minnesota allocates general sales tax revenue (1/8 cent per dollar of sales) to a state Clean Water Fund. Funds are used to protect and enhance water quality in lakes, streams and groundwater, and may be used for conservation practices on farms.

12:30 - Working Lands Focus Group Recommendations (and Full Group Response)

1:00 - Surface Water Focus Group Recommendations (and Full Group Response)

1:30 - Groundwater Quality Focus Group Recommendations (and Full Group Response)

2:00 - Groundwater Quantity Focus Group Recommendations (and Full Group Response)

2:30 - Conservation Incentives: An Opinion Survey (Full Group, secret ballot)

3:15 - Next Steps and Closing Remarks

3:30 - Adjourn