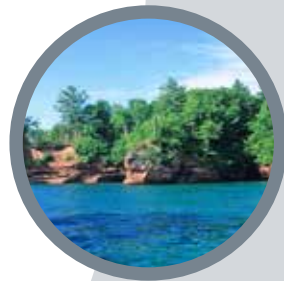




# WI LAND + WATER

Committee  
Report  
2015



## Committee Members

Steve Keith  
Milwaukee County  
(Chair)

Greg Coulthurst  
Door County  
(Vice-Chair)

Christina Anderson  
WI Land+Water

Davina Bonness  
Kewaunee County

Greg Cleereman  
Marinette County

Ken Dolata  
Oconto

Tom Fratt  
Ashland County

Scott Frank  
Shawano County

Dick Gilles  
Oconto County

Andy Holschbach  
Ozaukee County

Christine Ostern  
Douglas County

Heather Palmquist  
Iron County

Paul Sebo  
Washington County

Agency Advisors:  
Donalea Dinsmore, DNR  
Mark Jenks, DATCP

# Great Lakes Committee

The Great Lakes Committee was formed in March of 2014 to support, promote and develop county land and water programming to protect, conserve and enhance natural resources in the Great Lakes Basin. The committee provides a forum for communications among land conservation committee members and land conservation staff on topics impacting the Great Lakes.

## 2015 Highlights

- Sponsored a two-day annual conference in June, hosted by Ashland County, held at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, that featured presentations on Lake Superior Basin water quality, ecology, climate change, and habitat improvement issues and projects. The conference also provided opportunities for networking through optional field trips and a social reception at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.
- Coordinated a mini-webinar on the subject of Adaptive Management. The case study presented results of an ongoing pilot project in Brown County. The mini-webinar format allowed GLC members from more distant counties to attend and participate in the Q&A. GLC anticipates sponsoring additional webinars in 2016 and encourages statewide participation.
- Secured committee advisors.
- Established a committee work plan and budget.
- Created a mini-grant program and awarded the first grant. The mini-grant program will be offered annually to eligible counties, and the committee anticipates distributing \$2500 each year to provide financial assistance for 3-5 projects.

## Great Lakes Annual Conference

The Great Lakes Committee held their first annual conference in Ashland County. Presenters focused on conservation in the Lake Superior Basin. Participants also enjoyed a tour of Ashland's water front and Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs (pictured right).



# Legislative / Administrative

The Legislative/Administrative Committee reviews and takes action as deemed necessary on any proposed legislation, administrative rules, or other policy and procedure that may significantly impact the administration of conservation programs. They are also charged with initiating action that may be needed to improve the administration of conservation programs and coordinating a statewide information exchange among all county land conservation department administrators.

## 2015 Highlights

- The 2015-2017 Biennial Budget posed many defunding challenges to conservation programs and organizations, including a reduction in funding of \$1,630,000 over the biennium for local county conservation staffing in the Governor's Budget. We are very pleased to have legislative support for the restoration of \$1,350,000 of that amount.
- Numerous bills were introduced in 2015 that impacted conservation issues and local control. These bills were heavily debated, largely rejected by towns and counties, and ultimately did not resurface in the opening legislative session in 2016. We opposed these bills and also testified in opposition to bills that would have eliminated the consideration of the "cumulative impact" of high capacity wells. Our positions on these bills are directly related to the adopted Association resolutions.
- Currently working with DATCP on tracking solution regarding FPP DATCP as requested by Secretary Brancel. The Committee's suggesting of assigning unique certificate number to all eligible claimants was approved and will be implemented in 2017.

## Committee Members

Kurt Calkins  
Columbia County (Chair)

Greg Cleereman  
Marinette County  
(Vice Chair & Secretary)

Greg Banek  
Outagamie County

Paul Daigle  
Marathon County

Scott Frank  
Shawano County

Dick Gilles  
Oconto County

Diane Hanson  
Marathon County

Perry Lindquist  
Waukesha County

Dan Masterpole  
Chippewa County

Dan Prestebak  
Dunn County

Tim Ritten  
Polk County

Paul Sebo  
Washington County

Ray Soper  
Taylor County

Dave Solin  
Langlade County

Peter Sorce  
Washington County

Jim VandenBrook  
WI Land+Water

Robert Walter  
Dunn County

Ben Wojan  
Vernon County



## Committee Members

Paul Backhaus  
Washington County  
(Chair)

Joe Strupp  
Jefferson County  
(Secretary)

Christina Anderson  
WI Land+Water Staff

Greg Cleereman  
Marinette County

Chase Cummings  
Pepin County

Tom Fratt  
Ashland County

Scott Hennelly  
WI Land+Water

Derek Kavanaugh  
Green Lake County

Amanda Knox  
Manitowoc County

Dani Santry  
Calumet County

Ben Wojahn  
Vernon County

Agency Advisor:  
Lisa Schultz, DATCP

# Public Outreach

The Public Outreach Committee is charged with developing and implementing an outreach plan to promote county land and water conservation programs and services, the goal of the Public Outreach Committee is to increase public awareness and support for county land and water conservation efforts.

## 2015 Highlights

- Increased Facebook presence: 383 total page likes, reach of over 25,000, and made our most popular post that reached over 8,000 people and was liked, commented on, and shared 132 times
- Continued the “Know your Conservation Member” spotlight, which now has 6 members highlighted
- Hired a Communications Specialist that has produced 7 articles and 3 videos that tell success stories from county staff
- Held brainstorming sessions that refined the goals, scope, and strategies of the Outreach Committee
- Strengthened our partnership with the DNR magazine by taking on an article that will be published in the 2016 April Edition of the magazine
- Exhibited at Farm Tech Days in Dane County to increase awareness of WI Land+Water
- Met with non profit partner groups to initiate collaboration efforts

## Success Stories

Communications Specialist, Scott Hennelly produced seven articles and three videos in 2015 highlighting stories from county staff. Pictured right: Marinette County outdoor educational program enters its fourteenth year!



# Professional Improvement

## Conference Planning

The WI Land+Water membership is comprised of a diverse group of individuals with varying backgrounds, skills and roles within their counties. The Professional Improvement Committee's goal is to provide a mix of topics and interests for all attendees of the Annual Conference. We worked with the Technical Committee to bring forth ideas that were incorporated into the conference breakout sessions. We welcome anybody that is interested in helping out. Please contact Dale Konkol with any questions.

## Employee Development Scholarship Program

The PIC made a change in the eligibility requirements to receive a training scholarship. In the past, a member who was in good standing had to pay membership dues for two years. The new verbiage states the applicant must be a member in good standing of WI Land+Water. "An individual is considered a member in good standing if they have paid an individual membership fee or their county has paid membership dues in full." This change will allow new members or elected officials to take advantage of the scholarship program. I encourage people to use the program; we have scholarship money available! In 2015, four scholarships were awarded totaling \$1,300. If you have specific questions or would like to apply please contact Patty Benedict, Portage County LCD, Scholarship Coordinator.

## Raffle

Please be generous with your purchase of raffle tickets as it supports our scholarship program.

## Conference Evaluation

Please take a few minutes to complete the conference evaluation located in your conference folder. An electronic version will also be emailed via the list serves after the conference. Your feedback will help us plan for the next conference.

## Committee Members

Dale Konkol  
Door County  
(Chair)

Carla Masten  
Outagamie County  
(Vice Chair)

Patty Benedict  
Portage County  
(Secretary)

Alayne Bosman  
Sheboygan County

Al Brandt  
Lafayette County

Lisa Burns  
Washburn County

Greg Cleereman  
Marinette County

Kelly Maginnis  
Columbia County

Dan O'Connell  
Portage County

Chris Schlutt  
WI Land+Water

Paul Sebo  
Washington County

Jim VandenBrook  
WI Land+Water

Kim Warkentin  
WI Land+Water

Technical Committee  
Representative:  
Geoff Schramm  
Ozaukee County

Agency Advisors:  
Lisa Schultz, DATCP  
Corinne Billings, DNR  
Lori Van Hulle, NRCS  
John Exo, UWEX



## 2015 Conservation Award Winners:

Conservation Steward  
Award: Patrick Sutter

Outstanding  
Conservation Employee:  
Kerrie Wheeler, Juneau  
County and Kirk  
Langfoss, Marathon  
County (pictured left)

Conservation Farmer  
of the Year: Ralph and  
Sheila Petersheim from  
Vernon County

Special Recognition:  
Curt Pawlisch

## Committee Members

Paul Sebo  
Washington County  
(Chair)

Ben Dufford  
Bayfield County

Paul Frederick  
Kewaunee County

Brian Goepfert  
Juneau County

Matt Hanewall  
LaCrosse County

Paul Klose  
Marinette County

Bob Micheel  
Monroe County

Dan O'Connell  
Portage County

Jennifer Thieme  
WI Land+Water

Agency Advisors:  
Lisa Schultz, DATCP  
Matt Woodrow, DATCP

# Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is charged with addressing issues relating to Land and Water Conservation technical activities. As a Technical Committee we feel our role is to provide input and support to WI Land+Water Committees on technical issues and to guide and promote training that provides additional experience for conservation staff. We meet about four times per year and are always looking for more members. Our meetings are usually held at the Portage County Annex, Stevens Point, WI and our tentative 2016 meeting schedule is: March 11, June 10, August (joint mtg. w/ PIC, date not set), and December 9.

## 2015 Highlights

- The Technical Committee along with staff from partnering agencies helped formulate a guidance document for Determining Significant Discharges from Feedlots for Compliance with Manure Management Prohibitions. Although unable to define 'significant discharge' this document should help to provide greater consistency across the state for feedlot evaluations. This document is currently being reviewed by DNR before official publishing and release.
- The committee provided a significant amount of input into the 2016 annual conference and we are pleased to point out that there are nine Engineering Professional Development Hour available.
- The annual technical tour was hosted by Fond du Lac County which included visits to Rosendale Dairy, UW/Biofirm Energy Systems Digester, LaClare Farms and a variety of upland conservation practices aimed at improving water quality and reducing flooding on the east side of Lake Winnebago. Special THANKS to Fond du Lac County for organizing and hosting this event.

**2015 Technical Tour**  
Fond du Lac County hosted the 2015 Technical Tour and visited a variety of upland conservation practices in the area.



# Youth Education Committee

## Thank you for your participation in 2015

- We want to thank you for allowing your staff to assist in the statewide youth education effort. We greatly appreciate the dedication of each and every person on the committee. Numerous counties have started to bring back youth conservation education programs and those effects are felt statewide.

## Poster/Speaking Contest

- 2015 was the second year having combined the poster and speaking contest to kick off the annual WI Land+Water conference and it was very successful.
- State Speaking Contest held just prior to the start of conference. 1st place state winners from each division spoke to over 350 resource professionals to kick off the conference luncheon.

## Conservation Camps

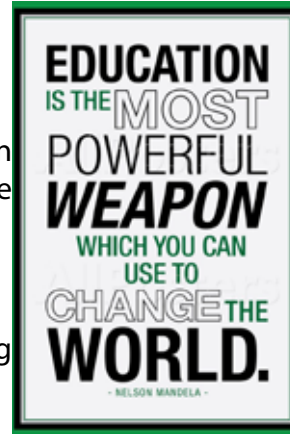
- Impressive camps with jam-packed schedules due to the countless hours of prep work and coordination, thank you to those involved!
- Numerous conservation staff members from across the state volunteered to become counselors at these camps and we greatly appreciate your commitment to make these camps a lifelong memory for the campers.

## Envirothon

- 2015 Envirothon was a huge success and we added 7 schools and partnership with FFA.
- Committee members have been very active in acquiring sponsorships and grants year round to help support this event. We raised over \$16,000.

## Youth Education promotions

- Find Wisconsin Envirothon on Facebook!
- Ask Youth Ed Committee members for Youth Education Brochures and Wisconsin Envirothon Brochures to display at your next event.
- Presentations are being done across the state to promote our core youth education programs
- Successfully launched the Land and Water Conservation Education Initiative with Discover Media Works. The first showing of the Water Pollution & Solutions was televised in December to over 6 million households.



## Committee Members

Tracy Arnold  
Wood County  
(Chair)

Stephanie Egner  
Washington County  
(Secretary)

Kim Warkentin  
WI Land+Water /  
Youth Education Director

Anne Bartels  
Marinette County

Patty Benedict  
Portage County

Lisa Burns  
Washburn County

Carla Doelle  
Trempealeau County

Kirstie Heidenreich  
Trempealeau County

Anne Leafblad  
Bayfield County

Kelly Maginnis  
Columbia County

Sarah McDowell  
Vernon Count

Aleisha Miller  
St. Croix County

Kelly Nechuta  
Sawyer County

Leah Nicol  
Dunn County

Heather Palmquist  
Iron County

Michele Sadauskas  
Oneida County

Joshua Saykally  
Waushara County

Zach Wilson  
Iron County



## 2015 State Poster Contest:

2015 was the first year posters were displayed in the silent auction room and judged by all conference attendees.

## Committee Members

Chase Cummings  
Pepin County

Dave Ferris  
Burnett County

Tom Fratt  
Ashland County

Kelly Jacobs  
Eau Claire County

Dan Masterpole  
Chippewa County

Carrie Olson  
Buffalo County

Gaylord Olson  
Jackson County

Dan Prestebak  
Dunn County

Gregg Stangl  
La Crosse County

Rodney Webb  
Pierce County

Ben Wojahn  
Vernon County

# Mississippi River Basin

The Mississippi River Basin Committee is the newest WI Land+Water committee. While the guiding principles are yet to be determined, the motivation for creating the committee is to bring counties together to collaborate on a basin-wide approach.



Wooded islands of the Mississippi River  
By Robert Queen



Advocates for locally led conservation  
[wisconsinlandwater.org/member-resources/committees](http://wisconsinlandwater.org/member-resources/committees)