



# *Thursday Note*

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An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 15, Issue 1

Thursday, January 19, 2012

## **WLWCA is Currently Seeking Applications for an Executive Director-Deadline February 15, 2012**

The WLWCA board of directors (BOD) met with the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) BOD on Wednesday, January 11 to review and revise the executive director position description and prepare a timeline to hire the position. At this time, WLWCA President Charles Wagner is finalizing the appointments to the hiring committee, which will consist of three members from each of the WLWCA and WALCE BODs. The position was posted publicly on January 17 at close of business. The full position description and directions to apply are available on at [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org), and WLWCA will be accepting resumes electronically until February 15. Interviews will be conducted following the WALCE conference, with an anticipated start date for the new executive director of April 1, 2012.

**~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director**

## **Sign Up to Volunteer at the 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon Today!**

The 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon: "Going Green with Low Impact Development (LID) Technology to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution" is scheduled for Friday, April 20 at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in Amherst Junction. WLWCA is currently soliciting volunteers and sponsors for the 2012 event. If you are interested in participating at the state level in one of North America's largest environmental education competitions, now's the time to sign up! Organizations or companies who send volunteers are recognized as sponsors and all volunteers receive a Wisconsin Envirothon T-shirt.

The Wisconsin Envirothon, for the first time ever, will be accepting a limited number of middle schools into the program. Middle schools will not be able to advance to Canon Envirothon and will be awarded in a separate category. We have received a number of requests from middle schools to get involved with the program, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity. Enrollment will be limited to 20 teams, and we will start registration allowing five middle school teams and 15 high school teams to enroll. Registration will be available online very soon.

Currently, the 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon is sponsored by Conserve School, the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, Econoprint, Northland College and the Wisconsin Department of Instruction. Thank you for your support!

We are still seeking donors, sponsors, and volunteers for the event. If you have creative ideas for supporting Wisconsin Envirothon, we would love to hear from you. Visit [www.envirothonwi.org](http://www.envirothonwi.org) for more details, to be updated soon. Contact Kirsten Moore ([kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org)) if you have any questions.

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

### **DATCP/DNR Lapsed Allocation**

WLWCA has been working closely with WALCE to persuade the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) of the State legislature to object to the portion of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's and Department of Natural Resources' lapsed allocation plan that cuts \$1.1 million from the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) GPR funds (a.k.a.: the staffing grant) and shifts \$1.1 million from the nutrient management cost-share SEG funds to the SWRM funds. We believe that retaining the staffing grant will allow counties to continue providing the many services farmers and landowners expect from land conservation departments (LCDs), give counties the ability to continue seeking funds from private and Federal sources to provide programs, and ensure that the remaining nutrient management cost-share will continue to be utilized.

As of writing, the JFC (with input from the Department of Administration) has raised a general objection to all of the lapses issued, but specifics are not identified as of yet. A preliminary hearing to outline the specifics of the objections is scheduled for January 18, and at that time we are hoping our specific objection will be raised with our solution in mind.

Many thanks are due to all the counties and constituents who have contacted and visited their local representation; written letters and local editorials; and passed resolutions. Questions about this effort and copies of correspondence can be directed to Kirsten Moore at WLWCA ([kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org)).

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

### **Drainage Districts**

Representative John Nygren's office has been working with Wisconsin Counties Association and WLWCA to obtain input from the counties regarding Representative Nygren's plan to introduce amendments to Statute 88 that would shift the authority to appoint drainage district boards from the circuit courts to the land conservation committees (LCCs). At this time, WLWCA has not taken an official position on the draft legislation, as it has not been introduced to the State legislature, and we appreciate that Representative Nygren is willing to share these drafts with the counties for input prior to introduction. We anticipate that Representative Nygren will indeed introduce his amendments to Statute 88 this month, once the draft is in his desired form. Please direct any

comments regarding these amendments to Kirsten Moore at WLWCA ([kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org)) as soon as possible to ensure that Representative Nygren's office can take your thoughts into consideration prior to introduction.

**~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director**

### **WLWCA-WALCE Merger Update**

WLWCA voted to move forward merging with WALCE, should WALCE vote in favor of the merge at their annual conference. WALCE's annual meeting of members is scheduled February 29, 2012, and they will be introducing a resolution requesting a simple majority approval to merge their association with ours. Should WALCE vote to approve the merge, the current WLWCA and WALCE BODs will remain the interim BOD for the merged association until the April elections occur, county supervisors are appointed to LCCs, and a new BOD can be created. We will keep you posted with further developments.

**~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director**

### **Registration Still Open for the 2012 WALCE Professional Improvement Conference February 29-March 2**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) Annual Conference will be held February 29, March 1 and 2, 2012 at The Plaza Hotel and Suites Conference Center, Eau Claire. The Professional Improvement Committee (PIC) has put together an agenda with topics to interest everyone and top notch presenters. Voting on the proposed WLWCA/WALCE merger will take place at the business meeting on Wednesday afternoon. Visit [www.walce.org](http://www.walce.org) and click on "Annual Conference" for the agenda and registration information.

**~Patty Benedict, WALCE PIC Chair, Portage County Land Conservation Department**

### **Standards Oversight Council (SOC) Update**

Applications for the position of SOC Coordinator were due on January 13. Interviews are expected to be held by the end of January, and the position offered the first week of February. We anticipate a start date of early March. Contact Chris Schlutt ([chrischlutt@wlwca.org](mailto:chrischlutt@wlwca.org)) with questions.

**~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator**



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### Calendar of Events

<b>NCLWCA Area Meeting, Rhinelander</b>	<b>Jan 20</b>
<b>LWLWCA Area Meeting, Oshkosh</b>	<b>Jan 27</b>
<b>Canon Envirothon Winter Meeting, Las Vegas, NV</b>	<b>Jan 27-29</b>
<b>NACD Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV</b>	<b>Jan 29-Feb 1</b>
<b>SOC Meeting, Madison</b>	<b>Feb 3</b>
<b>LWCB Meeting, Madison</b>	<b>Feb 7</b>
<b>SWCS Winter Conference, Stevens Point</b>	<b>Feb 9</b>
<b>WCLWCA Area Meeting, Menomonie</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>
<b>WALCE Conference</b>	<b>Feb 29-Mar 2</b>

For more information, visit [www.wlwca.org/eventscalendar.html](http://www.wlwca.org/eventscalendar.html)

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Interim Operations Director  
**Chris Schlutt**  
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