



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 15, Issue 5

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Welcome to the New WLWCA Board and Executive Committee

On July 9, 2012, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Board of Directors met for the first time operating under the new by-laws of the merged WLWCA. One land conservation committee (LCC) supervisor and one land conservation department (LCD) staff from each of eight state area associations make up the board. Please welcome from Area 1-Lake Michigan: Chuck Wagner, LCC and Bill Schuster, LCD; Area 2-Lake Winnebago: Joe Piechowski, LCC and Greg Baneck, LCD; Area 3-Southeast Peter Sorce, LCC and Perry Lindquist, LCD; Area 4-Southern: Dale Hood, LCC and Kurt Calkins, LCD; Area 5-Western: Marilyn Pedretti, LCC and Ben Wojahn, LCD; Area 6-West Central: Fritz Garbisch, LCC and Kelly Jacobs, LCD; Area 7-Northwestern: Arian Knops, LCC and Brad Robole, LCD; and Area 8-North Central: Tom Rudolph, LCC and Carolyn Scholl, LCD. The Board had a full agenda including the election of WLWCA officers and Executive Committee. The Board will appoint members to standing committees at its August meeting.

The Board elected the following members to two-year officer and executive committee terms: Chuck Wagner, Chair of the WLWCA Board and Vice President of the Executive Committee; Greg Baneck, Vice Chair of the WLWCA Board and President of the Executive Committee; Perry Lindquist, Secretary of the WLWCA Board and Executive Committee; Bill Schuster, Treasurer of the WLWCA Board and Executive Committee; Tom Rudolph, Executive Committee member; and Joe Piechowski, Executive Committee member.

~Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director

2012 Land & Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Elections and Resolutions Information

Please note the important information and deadlines for LWCB elections and resolutions. The 2012 LWCB Election Policy and 2012 Resolutions Timetable were determined and approved by the WLWCA Board of Directors on July 9. Both LWCB elections and resolutions will be voted on during our 59th Annual Meeting/County Conservationists Meeting on October 4- 5, 2012 in Wisconsin Rapids, with the Annual Meeting occurring on October 4. Please visit www.wlwca.org for additional information and the registration form.

Each Area Association is encouraged to nominate a candidate for the LWCB and submit their name and a one-page biography or resume to WLWCA by **August 27, 2012**. By August 31, WLWCA will distribute an election ballot and candidates' biographies on the County Conservationist Google Group and to every LCC chair that has provided their Email address to WLWCA. Details of the entire election process and other pertinent information can be found at www.wlwca.org/landwaterboard.html. You can find the LWCB bylaws here: datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/BylawsAmended060711.pdf.

Area Associations are welcome to submit resolutions to WLWCA by **August 20, 2012**. Per the Board's direction, each resolution must be submitted using the approved Resolution Attachment form. The Resolution Attachment and the 2012 Resolutions Timetable, which includes the deadline and when resolutions will be distributed to the membership, can be found on our website at www.wlwca.org/resolutions.html. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

2012 WLWCA Annual Meeting and County Conservationist Meeting to be Held on October 4-5 in Wisconsin Rapids

Join WLWCA at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids for its first annual meeting of members as a merged organization of county land conservation committee supervisors and department staff. The merger of WLWCA with the former Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees has brought about many changes within the association, including moving the annual December conference to a March schedule. As there will be no 2012 conference, the board of directors decided that the Fall County Conservationist meeting would be the next best venue to hold the annual meeting of members, where resolutions will be taken up and LCC supervisors will cast their biennial vote for three representatives to serve on the State Land and Water Conservation Board. This is a great opportunity to meet WLWCA's new board of directors, meet our new executive director Jim VandenBrook, hear the state LWCB candidates speak, learn about and get involved with WLWCA's committees, and find out what the County Conservationist meetings are all about.

LCC and LCD members are strongly encouraged to attend. Registration is open and available at www.wlwca.org. The online registration may be completed electronically or printed and sent to the WLWCA office. Contact the Hotel Mead at 715-423-1500 to reserve a room under the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation block. The registration deadline is **September 13**. If you have any questions, please contact Kirsten Moore by phone or at kirsten@wlwca.org.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Now Thru August 1: Seeking Session Proposals for the 60th WLWCA Annual Conference March 11-13 in Wis. Dells

On August 9, the WLWCA interim Professional Improvement and Technical Committees will gather in Stevens Point with WLWCA staff to take stock of past conference evaluations from WLWCA and the former WALCE conferences and review data collected from an online poll of members to identify member interests and plan sessions for the 2013 WLWCA Annual Conference. WLWCA staff has been working closely with PIC Chair Patty Benedict of Portage County LCD to plan the meeting. If you are a LCC or LCD member who does not serve on these interim committees, but is interested in participating in this important planning meeting, please contact Kirsten Moore by phone or at kirsten@wlwca.org.

Are you a county or outside agency or organization interested in presenting a session to the WLWCA membership and colleagues at the conference? WLWCA is now accepting formal proposals to present. Please visit www.wlwca.org/conference.html to find and complete an online form to pitch your proposal. The deadline to pitch a proposal for consideration at the planning meeting is **August 1**. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Schlutt by phone or at chrisschlutt@wlwca.org.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

WLWCA Awards Update

The WLWCA Board of Directors recently discussed awards, both those previously recognized by WALCE as well as WLWCA's two awards, Conservation Farmer of the Year and Outstanding Supervisor. Given that 2012 is being consumed largely with merger reorganization, it was decided that the next awards presentations will be at the 2013 annual conference. WLWCA awards will include Outstanding Employee of the Year for county conservationists, technicians and clerical staff, as well as a special award recognizing someone outside of the organization. The Outstanding Supervisor award will also continue.

The Conservation Farmer of the Year award, which has been hampered by a small number of nominations, may be revamped into a Conservation Steward of the Year award to allow broader participation. The details and nomination process still need to be determined. The winner and winning county will continue to host Conservation Observance Day, which was recognized as a positive event that promotes conservation and puts a face on the practices that conserve our natural resources. All awards will be presented at our annual conference in March 2013. Look for additional details later this year.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Field Office of the Future: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Seeks County Land Conservation Input

On July 3, WLWCA issued a survey on the Membership Google Group on behalf of USDA-NRCS seeking input as to what the Field Office of the Future should look like. Every state and territory in our nation has been asked to take a look at the current structure and consider how local conservation services can best meet the needs of customers, increase efficiency, and adapt to changing federal budgets. As part of this task, input and feedback is needed for the preparation of a statewide plan due in Washington on September 1, 2012.

The purpose of this survey is to ask LCCs and LCDs for input and feedback. We are asking you to complete this survey by **July 27, 2012**. Your answers to the survey are confidential and will not be attributed to any person or organization. If you have LCC supervisors in your county who do not use Email, you may print this survey for them to fill out and mail to the WLWCA office or complete the survey online for those supervisors.

To get you thinking about the Field Office of the Future, NRCS has provided information about technology changes that are already underway at NRCS, called the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI). The initiative will simplify conservation delivery, streamline business processes and ensure science-based assistance. Find out more about CDSI at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/about/cdsi. Take the survey or print for by visiting docs.google.com/a/wlwca.org/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG81Q1IQOU5mckVSMUg5N1JaN1JVV0E6MQ#gid=0. Thank you for your input!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Two Successful Land and Water Conservation Camps Held In June

“An investment of your time in the young people of today will reap the benefits of sound environmental and conservation decision-making for our tomorrows.” – Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservationist

Youth land and water conservation camps were held in both Vilas and Marinette County this past June. For over 30 years Paula Carow, recently retired County Conservationist for Rusk County, ran WLWCA’s high school youth conservation camp at Trail’s End Camp in Bruce. This year, Carow passed the torch to Scholl, who chose Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River for the conservation camp’s new home. This year’s camp was fantastic, in spite of rainy conditions, with 21 boys and girls from across the state in attendance. The camp featured counselors from statewide county land conservation staff and a variety of guest speakers. Author and ecologist Sandy Gillum gave a talk on loon ecology, Michelle Woodford of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Anne Bartels from Marinette County LCD talked about wildlife management, and Mike Pezinski of the U.S. Forest Service led a hands-on trout stream habitat restoration project. Students also spent time in an old growth forest learning about forest succession, went on a night hike, heard about the history of logging in northern Wisconsin, and learned about how wolf populations are managed. Swimming, snacks, campfires, card games, movies, lawn games, volleyball, and canoeing were also included in the camp’s activities.

Entering its seventh year, the Sand Lake Conservation Camp at Camp Bird in Marinette County was also a great success, with 73 campers from 26 Wisconsin counties and two counties from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Led by the Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Division and geared for middle school students, Sand Lake Conservation Camp provides positive educational outdoor experiences, fostering an appreciation for nature and introducing a variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers. The camp featured core topic sessions on forestry, aquatic habitats, reptiles, fisheries and mammals; and choice activities including trapping, birding skills, GPS geocaching, archery, canoeing, hiking, t-shirt design, spinner making, outdoor first aid, and a challenge course. Special presentations were given by DNR Conservation Warden Mike Stahl; as well as Kim Diedrich and Jody Sperduto from the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay, who brought several native Wisconsin animals to the camp to teach about wildlife rehabilitation and conservation issues. Two offsite fishing trips were offered in addition to a campfire building competition, scavenger hunt, a tick collecting contest, and “Conservation Jeopardy” to review the major topics covered at camp.

Volunteers at and sponsors for both camps included staffers and members from the following land conservation committees, departments and other organizations: American Legion Post 280 of Coleman, Clark’s Willowtree Fur, Eau Claire County, Glacierland RC&D, Iron County, Marinette County, Portage County, Sauk County, Shawano County, Trees for Tomorrow, Trout Unlimited (Green Bay and Marinette Chapters), Vilas County, Washington County, and WLWCA. Thank you for supporting youth conservation education in Wisconsin!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Standards Oversight Council Update

To set a strong path forward with a new SOC coordinator, the Council met for a full day on May 30th. At this meeting, the Council revised and updated the current Technical Standards Work Plan based on the 2011 Needs Assessment and current agency priorities, welcomed Ken Genskow as the new UW-Extension representative on the Council, discussed the need for improved training on newly revised and developed technical standards, and agreed to move forward in redesigning the SOC website to create a more visually appealing, user-friendly, and collaborative communication tool. We are particularly interested in using the website to improve efficiencies of the standards work team process and to clearly communicate team progress. Any suggestions for improving the website can be directed to gini@wlwca.org. The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2012. To view the Technical Standards Work Plan, please visit socwisconsin.org/plan.html.

A few highlights for recent and upcoming technical standards work are the publication of WDNR and DSPS Infiltration Trench 1007 technical standard, WDNR’s formation of a new Pervious Pavement technical standard work team, and the planning of listening sessions to define the scope of the revision to NRCS’s Nutrient Management 590 standard. The Waste Storage Facility 313 standard, Waste Transfer 634 standard, and Waste Treatment 629 standard are all still expected to be released in the third quarter of this year.

Visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/standards/postconst_standards.html to view the Infiltration Trench 1007 technical standard.

~Gini Knight, SOC Coordinator



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Calendar of Events

Canon Envirothon, Selinsgrove PA	Jul 22-27
WCA Open Meetings Seminar, Stevens Point	Jul 23
NWTC Managed Grazing Summer Course, Green Bay	Jul 24
Central WI River Grazier's Pasture Walk, Abbotsford	Jul 25
LW Area Meeting & Summer Tour, Green Lake	Jul 27
NWTC Managed Grazing Summer Course, Green Bay	Jul 31
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Aug 7
WLWCA Executive Committee Meeting, Appleton	Aug 8
WLWCA 2013 Conference Planning Meeting, Stevens Point	Aug 9
Central WI River Grazier's Pasture Walk, Athens	Aug 11
Farmland Forward: A Celebration of PACE, Waupaca	Aug 11
UW-LAX Wetland Deliniation Workshops, Siren	Aug 13-17
Central WI River Grazier's Pasture Walk, Aniwa	Aug 16
NW Area Meeting, Ashland	Aug 17
WLWCA Resolutions Deadline	Aug 20
NC Area Meeting, Wisconsin Rapids	Aug 24
LWCB Candidate Nominations Due	Aug 27
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Stevens Point	Aug 27

For more information about our events and partner organization events, visit www.wlwca.org/eventscalendar.html

WLWCA Board of Directors

Chuck Wagner, Chair Kewaunee County LWCC	Greg Baneck, Vice Chair Outagamie County LCD
Perry Lindquist, Sec'y Waukesha County LRD	Bill Schuster, Treasurer Door County SWCD
Joe Piechowski Waushara County LWEC	Tom Rudolph Oneida County C&UEC
Peter Sorce Washington County LCC	Kurt Calkins Columbia County LWCD
Dale Hood Grant County LCC	Marilyn Pedretti La Crosse County PR&DC
Ben Wojahn Vernon County LWCD	Fritz Garbisch Clark County LCC
Kelly Jacobs Eau Claire County LCD	Arian Knops Rusk County LWCC
Brad Robole Washburn County LWCD	Carolyn Scholl Vilas County LWCD

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