



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 15, Issue 6

Thursday, September 6, 2012

59th Annual Meeting and County Conservationist Meeting Scheduled October 4-5, Registration Deadline September 13

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. In addition to voting at the annual meeting, 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, and includes **newly updated details** about the County Conservationist/Administrative Sessions and Roundtables. The 2012 WLWCA Annual Business Meeting Agenda is also now available online. 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

WLWCA Annual Business Meeting Voter Information

WLWCA's Annual Business Meeting is scheduled October 4, in conjunction with the Fall County Conservationist Meeting at 12:30pm at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. The new WLWCA bylaws (located at our website) do affect the way in which business is conducted at the annual meeting. Here are some changes that are important for counties to consider.

- WLWCA no longer allows proxy voting. Anyone who wishes to vote at the annual meeting must be registered for the event and present.
- Each county who has paid full WLWCA County Dues receives two votes at the Annual Meeting, and the voting delegate is no longer limited to the LCC Chair. One vote may be cast by an LCC supervisor delegate of the county's choice and one vote may be cast by an LCD staff delegate of the county's choice. Voting delegates for LCC supervisors and LCD staff will both be asked to register at the annual meeting by printing and signing their name on a voter registration and will need to pick up a voting paddle to vote. For the October 4 meeting, voter registration will be open from 9:00 a.m. to the beginning of the meeting.
- State Land and Water Board (LWCB) elections will also take place on October 4. LWCB elections are decided by paper ballot and are not part of WLWCA's annual meeting business, although the candidates will be allocated time during the annual business meeting to speak to the membership. By state statute, each county receives only one vote for LWCB candidates, and ballots may be cast by the LCC chair or her/his delegate of choice. The ballot box will be available until 3:30pm on October 4, and absentee ballots may be cast via Email, fax, or US Mail time-stamped or postmarked by October 1.

Please let WLWCA staff know if you have any questions, and we appreciate your patience as the association gets acquainted with its new bylaws and voting structure.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

2012 Resolutions

Two resolutions will be considered at WLWCA's 59th annual meeting. Resolution #1 supports increased funding for aquatic invasive species programs at the state level. Resolution #2 calls for the state agencies to provide counties with the means to implement consistent and comprehensive conservation that would stabilize Land and Water Conservation Department funding. The resolutions, plus additional information on Resolution #1, can be found at www.wlwca.org/resolutions.html.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

2012 Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Election Information

2012 LWCB elections will also take place at the annual meeting. Nominees are Joe Piechowski, Waushara County Land and Water Education Committee, Lake Winnebago Area; Tom Rudolph, Oneida County Agriculture and Extension/Land and Water Conservation Committee, North Central Area; Charles Wagner, Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee, Lake Michigan Area; and Leon Wolfe, Lafayette County Land Conservation Committee, Southern Area. The candidates will have an opportunity to address the membership during the annual meeting. Votes can be cast during the October 4 meeting or by absentee ballot. Please review the LWCB Election Policy for pertinent information and voting guidelines. The Election Policy, candidate bios and the ballot can be found at www.wlwca.org/landwaterboard.html.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Farm Bureau Discusses Land Conservation and Nutrient Management

This summer, local Wisconsin Farm Bureau chapters have been discussing the relevance of County Land Conservation Departments and the necessity of meeting current nutrient management standards. Results of these discussions will form the basis for resolutions which may become state Farm Bureau policy. These meetings provide a forum to open a dialogue with Farm Bureau. Please attend one of the meetings listed on the WLWCA website.

County LCDs are often too busy to tell their own story, but collectively they do a lot, and a lot for farmers:

- For every state dollar invested in county staff, farmers gain access through county staff to over five dollars of state and federal cost-share dollars that protect businesses and natural resources
- For 2011, counties reported that they provided technical assistance or otherwise had a hand in delivering \$32,742,467 in cost-share funds from these sources:
 - Local (including county levy, \$2,069,388;
 - State (including DNR TRM & DATCP SWRM), \$10,667,815;
 - Federal (including EQIP, CSP, CRP, CREP, WHIP, MRBI), \$19,089,622;
 - Other (Nature Conservancy, NACD, lake district, Sand County Foundation etc.), \$915,642.
- For every county conservation staff person funded with state dollars, two are funded from other sources secured by counties, significantly leveraging state investments to build local conservation capacity to serve farmers.
- Cost-sharing manure storage and other conservation practices enables farmers to pay for what have become necessary business costs of any expansion.
- For every storage facility built utilizing state cost-share funds, 75-125 cows are typically added. The state 30X20 dairy initiative will be difficult to meet without funding needed waste management systems.

Meeting the state nutrient management standard is not only required to maintain eligibility for Farmland Preservation credits, compliance with manure storage permits, and other programs, but will be critical to implement DNR's new phosphorus rules, associated nutrient reduction strategies, and adaptive management efforts in which municipalities show increasing interest.

~Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director

Announcing the 2013 WLWCA Awards

We are excited to announce that the following awards are being offered: Conservation Farmer of the Year, Conservation Steward, Outstanding Supervisor, Outstanding Conservation Employee (with three categories: County Conservationist/Administrator/Supervisor, Technician/Planner/Project Manager/GIS Specialist/Agronomist/Educator, and Administrative Assistant/Clerical), and Special Recognition/Friend of Conservation. The Conservation Farmer of the Year state winner will be asked to host Conservation Observance Day during 2013 and receive reimbursement up to \$3000 from DATCP.

For those receiving this electronically, the guidelines and nomination information for all awards is attached. It can also be found on our web site at www.wlwca.org/consawards.html. Entries should be submitted before December 31, 2012, and winners will be recognized at the annual WLWCA Conference scheduled for March 11-13, 2013 in Wisconsin Dells.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

WLWCA Seeks Eight Volunteers for the State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest Saturday, November 3

WLWCA is currently seeking judges and moderators for the State Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest and one judge for the Soil to Spoon Poster Contest from 9:00am-12:30pm on Saturday, November 3 at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

Also, WLWCA now advertises your local poster and speaking contests on its EE in Wisconsin profile. If your county has not signed up for this free advertising opportunity, now is a good time to take advantage.

Please go to www.wlwca.org select Programs, and click on Youth Camps and Contests to find details about how to register to volunteer, or how to advertise your local programs.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Congratulations to Luxemburg-Casco High School for Participating in the 25th Canon Envirothon

Five students led by advisor Charles Frisk of Luxemburg-Casco High School won the opportunity at this year's Wisconsin Envirothon to attend the Canon Envirothon, a weeklong conservation education competition. Teams from across 44 states, nine Canadian provinces, and one Canadian territory completed training and testing in aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and this year's current issue: nonpoint source pollution and low impact development.

At stake for each team was a share of \$120,000 in scholarships and Canon products. The top 15 winning teams were selected based on points earned from hands-on field testing, written tests, and team presentations. The first place team, Pembroke High School from Kansas City, Missouri, received a total of \$25,000 in Canon scholarships. All of the top 15 teams received either scholarships or Canon products.

The North American competition is the culmination of a series of state and provincial competitions that ran over the course of the last school year and included more than 500,000 high school students throughout the continent. Teams from many schools and organizations competed at the state and provincial levels for the distinction of representing their state, province, or territory at the Canon Envirothon. WLWCA is proud to host the Wisconsin Envirothon and to have sponsored Luxemburg-Casco High School's participation in the North American event.

Special thanks to Conserve School, Milk Source, Econoprint, Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Kikkoman Foods, and Northland College for financially supporting the 2012 event. Their help made hosting the Wisconsin Envirothon as well as WLWCA and Luxemburg-Casco High School's attendance at the 25th Canon Envirothon possible.

Mark your calendars for April 12, 2013 at Wisconsin Lions Camp, where high school and middle school teams will participate in field tests and give team presentations about grazing lands to see which high school will represent Wisconsin at the 2013 North American event in Bozeman, Montana. If you are interested in volunteering, fundraising, or sponsoring the 2013 Wisconsin Envirothon, please contact WLWCA.

Please visit www.envirothon.org to see photos and scores from the 25th Canon Envirothon and check www.envirothonwi.org as the 2013 Wisconsin Envirothon develops. Also, find Wisconsin Envirothon on Facebook! Thank you for your support.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Standards Oversight Council Update

More than 200 people attended a series of Waste Management Standards meetings held last week across the state. Staff from NRCS and DATCP presented an overview of the changes to the NRCS Standards 313, Waste Storage Facility; 634, Waste Transfer; and 629, Waste Treatment. The final standards and several companion documents will be published on the NRCS website this month. Technical field days providing more specific hands-on training to the standards are being scheduled for the fall.

As these three standards are wrapping up, two new Standards Oversight Council (SOC) teams are being formulated. A pervious pavement team has been charged with developing Wisconsin's first pervious pavement standard. This technical standard will address the effectiveness in removing volume and/or pollutants from storm water runoff and how to determine that effectiveness. The criteria in this standard will not address pervious pavement construction. The team held its first meeting on August 22nd, and plans to meet again in November. SOC is also preparing for a new team that will take on the Nutrient Management 590 standard revision. NRCS plans to hold a scoping session in the fall to build awareness of the process. The team will be formed this winter, and is scheduled to begin meeting in January 2013.

To receive regular updates on Urban or Agriculture standards, visit www.socwisconsin.org.

~Gini Knight, SOC Coordinator



**Wisconsin Land & Water
Conservation Association, Inc.**
702 E. Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53703-1533
(608) 441-2677
FAX: (608) 441-2676
www.wlwca.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON, WI
PERMIT NO. 1989

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

 Printed on Recycled Paper

Calendar of Events

Vilas LCC Meeting, Eagle River	Sept 7
Oneida Conservation/UWEX Comm. Mtg., Rhinelander	Sept 10
NACD Executive Director's Conf., Portland, ME	Sept 11-14
WLWCA Annual/County Con. Mtg. Registration Deadline	Sept 13
WLWCA Technical Committee Tour, Waupaca	Sept 13
WLWCA Executive Committee Meeting, Appleton	Sept 17
WCA Annual Conference, La Crosse	Sept 23-25
Midwest Environmental Education Conf., Coralville, IA	Sept 25-28
Lake Superior Binational Forum, Marquette, MI	Sept 28
LWCB Absentee Ballots Due by Email, Fax or US Mail	Oct 1
WLWCA BOD Meeting, WI Rapids	Oct 4
WLWCA Annual Meeting, WI Rapids	Oct 4
LWCB LCC Supervisor Election, WI Rapids	Oct 4
WLWCA County Conservationist Mtg., WI Rapids	Oct 4-5
NW Area Meeting, Location TBD	Oct 19
WAEE Fall Conference, Egg Harbor	Oct 25-27
WI Wetlands Assn. Annual Mtg., Madison	Oct 25
Area Poster & Speaking Contest Deadline	Oct 26
LW Area Meeting, Westfield	Oct 26
WLWCA BOD Meeting, WI Rapids	Nov 2
State Poster & Speaking Contest, WI Rapids	Nov 3

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

WLWCA Staff

Jim VandenBrook
Executive Director
Kirsten Moore
Office Manager, Youth Education Coordinator
Chris Schlutt
Program Coordinator
Gini Knight
Standards Oversight Council Coordinator

Conserve by subscribing to *Thursday Note* online! Visit groups.google.com/a/wlwca.org/group/newsletter to subscribe with your [Google Account](#) or Email kirsten@wlwca.org for details.