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Calendar of Events

Land & Water Conservation Board Meeting, Madison	Oct. 1
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Wisconsin Rapids 9:00am-Noon	Oct. 2
WLWCA Strategic Planning with the Board, Wisconsin Rapids 1:00pm-6:00pm	Oct. 2
Fall County Conservationists Meeting, Wisconsin Rapids	Oct. 3-4
WLWCA Legislative/Administrative Committee Meeting	Oct. 10
Lake Michigan Area Association Fall Conference, Marinette County	Oct. 11
Northwestern Area Meeting, Poster & Speaking Contests, Spooner	Oct. 18
Lake Winnebago Area Association Fall Meeting	Oct. 25
Standard Oversight Council Meeting, Madison	Nov. 5
WLWCA Executive Committee Meeting, Appleton	Nov. 13
WI State Technical Committee Meeting, Madison	Nov. 21
WLWCA Technical Committee Meeting, Stevens Point	Dec. 13
2014 WLWCA Annual Conference, Appleton	Mar 10-12

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 FR&DC
Ben Wojahn Vernon County LWCD	Fritz Garbisch Clark County LCC
Kelly Jacobs Eau Claire County LCD	Carolyn Scholl Vilas County LWCD
Tom Fratt Ashland County LCD	Bill Thomas Iron County LCC

WLWCA Staff

Jim VandenBrook
Executive Director
Kim Warkentin
Office Manager/Exec. Assistant
Chris Schlutt
Program Coordinator
Gini Knight
Standards Oversight Council Coordinator

For more information and events, visit www.wlwca.org/eventscalendar.html

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Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 16, Issue 5

September 26, 2013

ATCP 50 – Final Draft Approved by ATCP Board

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection approved the final draft of the Soil & Water Resource Management Program rules at its September 10, 2013 meeting. The major changes are listed below with DATCP's response to public comments received in March/April 2013.

The issues of biggest concern expressed by counties are listed below with the response by DATCP in the final draft:

- DATCP will continue funding on publically owned land, but at a reduced cost-share rate of 50%. The hearing draft called for elimination of cost-sharing on government projects.
- DATCP was not convinced to fund non-farm practices at 70% cost-share and retains the hearing draft cost-share rate of 50% for non-farm practices.
- DATCP did insert language directing the agency to work with DNR to improve funding for all LCD work.
- DATCP will not reinstate the \$85,000 minimum staff allocation, and will cap staff support costs at 10% of the staffing grant.

In short, DATCP did respond to a number of the issues raised by WLWCA and counties, but not all. Expect to see the rule take effect in summer 2014.

Welcome to Brooke Weber - WLWCA Training & Outreach Specialist

WLWCA has added a new position to help county land conservation staff and supervisors improve their professional credentials and promote their great work. Please welcome Brooke Weber who will start October 1st as WLWCA's Training and Outreach Specialist. Brooke has a background in training program development which will be very helpful to the State Interagency Training Committee. The Outreach Committee will benefit from her Communications degree and skills with various media. We are excited to have Brooke with us and know she is looking forward to working with our membership and partners.

WLWCA Board Meeting and Strategic Planning session - October 2, 2013

The WLWCA Board will be meeting on October 2, 2013 from 9 am to noon, at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. The full agenda will be posted on the WLWCA website. At 1 pm, Board members will reconvene to discuss priority issues for WLWCA as part of its strategic plan development. John Exo, UWEX, has graciously offered to facilitate the strategic planning session. The Board's goal will be to identify and rank the top priorities for the organization.

Nitrogen Science Summit

Ken Genskow, UWEX advisor to WLWCA, has initiated a group of UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Science researchers, agency partners, WLWCA and others to look at the issues of nitrogen runoff, leaching, and volatilization from agronomic practices and the potential for better management to mitigate the losses of nitrogen to the environment. Goals include an assessment of the research literature on nitrogen, gaps in the knowledge base, and ultimately the development of management alternatives. This is anticipated to be a multi-year endeavor with status reports delivered at annual summits. WLWCA will keep you posted on summit happenings.

Waters of Wisconsin Initiative – Take Two

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters is following up on its 2002-3 Waters of Wisconsin Initiative which opened the conversation on groundwater quantity issues and the need for the control of phosphorus runoff to improve surface water quality. From those early discussions came changes in state policy including regulations on high-capacity well installations as well as the development of numeric standards for phosphorus in Wisconsin waters. The latest initiative aims to advance the goal of healthy, abundant water for future generations by tackling the following issues through four workgroups:

- Develop a clear message of water challenges and responses in Wisconsin
- Advance water conservation, management, and efficiency through better practices and more comprehensive state water management planning
- Reduce phosphorus pollution by implementing the current phosphorus rules through adaptive management strategies and efforts to surmount barriers to implementation
- Identify systemic barriers to proper water resource management and recommend solutions

WLWCA has been invited to participate, and we currently are working on the phosphorus pollution reduction workgroup. Stay tuned as these groups begin to produce draft recommendations.

~Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director

Standard Oversight Council Update

The permeable pavement standard development team has made significant progress and completed a thoroughly debated draft of this new WDNR practice standard. The team has sent the current draft standard to ten outside experts and invited their comprehensive review and feedback. We will consider all of the initial review comments at the October 9th meeting and plan to release an updated draft standard for public comment in November. We will announce the beginning of the three-week broad review comment period through the [SOC website](#) and list-serve. The final permeable pavement standard is expected to be published by March of 2014.

From SOC's 2013 Technical Standards Needs survey, we received numerous comments regarding the need for training on particular practice standards. To help facilitate this need for more educational resources on new and existing practice standards, SOC is exploring the development of an online resource that will collect documentation of the most common practice standards across the state. We hope this collection of photos and descriptions will provide examples of completed projects and the site-specific characteristics considered in designing the practices. Stay tuned for a request to share any photos, tips, and techniques for completed conservation projects highlighting Wisconsin's conservation practice standards.

~Gini Knight, Standards Oversight Council Coordinator

Announcing the 2014 WLWCA Awards

We are excited to announce that the following awards are being offered: Conservation Farmer of the Year, Conservation Steward, Outstanding Supervisor, Special Recognition/Friend of Conservation, and Outstanding Conservation Employee (with three categories: 1) County Conservationist/Administrator/Supervisor, 2) Technician/Planner/Project Manager/GIS Specialist/Agronomist/Educator, and 3) Administrative Assistant/Clerical). The Conservation Farmer of the Year state winner will be invited to host the 2014 Conservation Observance Day and will be reimbursed up to \$3000 from DATCP for hosting this important event promoting conservation awareness.

Guidelines and nomination information can be found at <http://www.wlwca.org/consawards.html>. Entries should be submitted before December 31, 2013, and winners will be recognized at the annual WLWCA Conference scheduled for March 10-12, 2014 in Appleton. Contact Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator at 608-441-2677 or chrisschlutt@wlwca.org for more information or questions.

WLWCA Public Outreach Committee Needs Your Help

On March 22nd 2013 the Public Outreach committee held its first meeting in Stevens Point. This meeting was the first step in promoting the work that Land & Water Conservation offices do across the state. Hopefully we won't be able to refer to ourselves as the best kept secret in county government for much longer.

The first task of the Committee was spearheading the articles that appeared in the May edition of Wisconsin Counties Association Magazine. In a matter of weeks we were able to pull together five excellent articles that showed the variety of services that Land & Water Conservation offices provide. Special thanks to the individuals who took the time to write or edit the articles. http://www.wlwca.org/outreach_committee.html

Since the initial rush of Wisconsin Counties Association Magazine, we have spent our time working on guiding principles, an outreach plan, and a success story template. Please visit the following link http://www.wlwca.org/outreach_committee.html to view the documents. Comments are appreciated.

As part of the implementation of the outreach plan we need your help in providing success stories. If you are working on a project that demonstrates the high quality services we provide, please let a member of the Public Outreach Committee know. That way we can work together to promote it.

We are always looking for more volunteers (staff or supervisor) to help us in our efforts. If you have an interest in public outreach, please contact me. Feel free to call or email 262-335-4803 or paul.backhaus@co.washington.wi.us.

~Paul Backhaus, Public Outreach Committee Chair

Raffle Tickets for WLWCA Annual Conference (March 10-12, 2014)

BUY EARLY – BUY OFTEN!!

Seeking WLWCA members to sell raffle tickets! Tickets will be available at the Fall County Conservationist meeting Thursday, October 3, during the lunch break. Sales will continue until the last day of the conference, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

In addition to early sales, another change for the raffle this year is that the prizes will be drawn randomly. All ticket stubs are deposited in one container. Prizes are: a Mathews Reezen 7.0 Bow in Lost AT Camo, a Thompson Center Omega Muzzleloader, TC 3-9x40 Scope, one \$400 cash prize, and four \$100 cash prizes. Tickets sell for \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00. All raffle proceeds benefit the WLWCA Scholarship Program. You do not need to be present at the conference to win.

If you are not attending the Fall County Conservationist meeting, and would like to sell raffle tickets or to find out who you can purchase raffle tickets from in your area, contact Patty Benedict, Raffle Coordinator, Portage County LCD, benedictpj@co.portage.wi.us (715-346-1334).

2014 Youth Summit/Wisconsin Envirothon

The 2014 Youth Summit will take place on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 and the Wisconsin Envirothon will take place on Thursday, April 17, 2014. Both events will be held at UW-Stevens Point - Tree Haven, W2540 Pickerel Creek Road, Tomahawk, Wisconsin. We are still looking for volunteers to help with judging and other duties. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kim Warkentin at 608-441-2677 or kim@wlwca.org. For more information on how to participate in the Wisconsin Envirothon go to: www.envirothonwi.org.