



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 15, Issue 7

Thursday, November 15, 2012

2013 WLWCA Awards Reminder, Deadline December 31

You still have plenty of time to nominate someone who has gone above and beyond in the field of conservation. The following awards are being offered: Conservation Farmer of the Year, Conservation Steward, Outstanding Supervisor, 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], and Special Recognition/Friend of Conservation. The Conservation Farmer of the Year state winner and their county will be asked to host Conservation Observance Day during 2013 and receive reimbursement up to \$3000 from DATCP. All nominations are to be submitted directly from your county to WLWCA. Details and nomination forms can be found on our web site at <http://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

Conservation Training Needs Survey

A survey was sent out to county staff last week from Kevin Erb at UW-Extension entitled "Conservation Training Summit Survey," and the results will help inventory existing training opportunities as well as training needs. Those who are on our lcd-staff list serve, as well as other public and private technical staff, received this survey. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes, and the responses will assist in upcoming discussions to help set the goals for future training in Wisconsin. The survey is a product of a multi-agency committee (DATCP, NRCS, DNR, UWEX, and counties) organized by WLWCA to evaluate conservation training for technical staff in Wisconsin. We hope that improved quality and accessibility to appropriate training helps staff maintain and develop skill and professionalism. Thank you for your assistance and to those who have already responded.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

59th Annual WLWCA Business & County Conservationists Meeting Held October 4-5, Resolutions Passed

On October 4, 2012 the WLWCA membership adopted two resolutions, one supporting significant additional funding for Aquatic Invasive Species control and management, and another supporting the restoration of state funding for local land conservation staff. The two resolutions are available on the WLWCA website. The county conservationists discussed a number of topics including:

- The impacts of expanded industrial sand mining, especially in Western Wisconsin. Issues range from concerns about dust, noise, traffic and road maintenance to workload demands stemming from review of site reclamation plans, ordinance development and implementation.
- The practical side of nutrient management (NM) was addressed by Brown, Dane, and St. Croix Counties. Direct farmer engagement was found to be critical to adoption, NM plans developed by crop advisors without on-site review by LCDs may not be compliant because many crop advisors do not believe it is their role to enforce conservation compliance.
- Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties described their success in tackling large compliance workloads for Farmland Preservation, specifically for nutrient management.
- The 2013-15 Biennial Budget was discussed and the proposed permanent cuts to the base level of funding for staff. Wisconsin Counties Association staff were on hand and distributed their legislative agenda which includes support for the restoration of these funds, in-line with the WLWCA resolution.

~Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director

Piechowski, Rudolph, and Wagner Elected to Represent LCCs on the State Land and Water Conservation Board

At the 2012 WLWCA Annual Meeting held October 4 in Wisconsin Rapids, the state's land conservation committee supervisors held their biennial election of representatives to serve on the State Land and Water Conservation Board. Four candidates: Joe Piechowski of Waushara County, Tom Rudolph of Oneida County, Chuck Wagner of Kewaunee County, and Leon Wolfe of Lafayette County were nominated by their respective area associations to run for the positions available, and all four had an opportunity to speak to the membership during the annual meeting. Biographies were available online and counties who were unable to attend the annual meeting were able to cast votes by mail ahead of the election. Piechowski, Rudolph and Wagner were elected and Wolfe will serve as the alternate. Thank you to all the nominees for your dedication to statewide land conservation representation.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

State Conservation Awareness Poster & Speaking Contests Held

The 55th annual State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contests were held at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday, November 3. Fifteen speakers and 48 posters represented counties statewide. The poster artists made their posters using the 2012 National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Theme "Soil to Spoon," which focused on the many connections between the foods people eat and the land it comes from. The speakers selected their own conservation topics. Poster artists and speakers at the state level competed previously, taking first place at county, and then regional levels. The first place winning speaker from each division has been invited to present their award-winning speech at the 2013 WLWCA Annual Conference during the awards banquet on Tuesday, March 12. First place winning posters will be submitted to the NACD Poster Contest, taking place during their annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas February 27-30, 2013.

SPEAKING CONTEST WINNERS

Elementary Division Grades 5-6: Anna Mercord, Pierce County; Second place: Grace Ribbe, Oneida County; Third place: Emma VandenLangenberg, Columbia County.

Junior Division Grades 7-8: First place: Adileen Sii, Wood County; Second place: David Bognar, Barron County; Third place: Hanna Nitzke, Waupaca County.

Senior Division Grades 9-12: First place: Lucas Stiemann, Burnett County; Second place: Courtney Runnels, Marquette County; Third place: Lily Howder, Eau Claire County.

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Primary Division K-1: First place: Neel Dums, Sawyer County; Second place: Katelyn Kalkofen, Marinette County; Third place: Brady Maines, Vilas County.

Elementary Division 2-3: First place: Sophia Gerhartz, Washington County; Second place: Isabel Rowell, Marinette County; Third place: Evan Bargaquast, Green Lake County.

Middle Division 4-6: First place: Jonathan Breuer, Grant County; Second (delete extra space here)place: Josh Brown, Ashland County; Third place: Maggie Drinan, Washington County.

Junior Division 7-9: First place: Erin Willard, Washington County; Second place: Julia Pfalzgraf, Fond du Lac County; Third place: Rebecca Held, Taylor County.

Senior Division 10-12: First place: Laliphat Tantiphipop, Barron County; Second place: Jessica Trampf, Green Lake County; Third place: Cassandra Wagner, Washington County.

Special Needs Junior Division K-6: First place: David Foust, Grant County; Second place: Jake Steubs, Portage County; Third place: Joshua Davis, Polk County.

Special Needs Senior Division 7-12: First place: Alexis Williams, Portage County; Second place: Sarah Wegner, Richland County; Third place: Shantell Chatman, Brown County.

WLWCA is seeking input from county land conservation committees and departments to improve the participation in and support of the state level events. Please visit www.wlwca.org and select [Programs/Youth Camps and Contests](#) to find a link to the survey. The survey will be open to submissions until December 31 so that counties have ample time to talk amongst themselves and with the schools. Changes being considered may affect the future schedules of the two contests.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the program. Thank you to all of the counties and areas who support this program, the volunteers who judged speakers at the state level, and to the many companies that donated to the WLWCA Youth Education Silent Auction last December, which funded the 2012 program in full.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager & Youth Education Coordinator

The Potential Opportunity of Adaptive Management

Land conservation departments are the key to the success of Wisconsin's new approach to cleaning up and protecting lakes and rivers. Industry and municipalities facing tighter phosphorus limits in their wastewater discharge permits may seek to work with upstream farms to reduce phosphorus runoff from farmlands so they don't have to invest in expensive technological fixes downstream at their plants. LCDs have the relationships with farmers, the local watershed knowledge, and the track record, to help bring these groups together. The Wisconsin DNR believes that LCDs will find valuable allies, and ultimately funding sources, as a result of these partnerships. These relationships will help us all achieve our natural resource goals, will help farmers sustain their major asset – their land – and will help local communities gain the higher property values and improved recreational opportunities that come with cleaner water.

As part of our responsibility to protect public health and Wisconsin's lakes and streams, DNR is now incorporating new phosphorus water quality standards in wastewater discharge permits as they're renewed. Municipal and industrial permit holders will have innovative, flexible compliance options to help them meet the new phosphorus limits cost-effectively. Two key options are adaptive

management and water quality trading. These two options allow point sources to reduce phosphorus runoff from farms, storm water and construction sites, and other point sources in the watershed to improve water quality. The options are similar in some respects: both seek to reduce phosphorus from other sources within the same watershed. However, trading and adaptive management differ in their end goals. Water pollutant trading is a relatively straightforward approach: the point source seeks to find offsetting cuts in phosphorus levels from upstream sources so the discharger can comply with the new, tougher phosphorus levels in its permit. We think that a lot of smaller wastewater dischargers will exercise this option. The other option, adaptive management, is unique to Wisconsin and focuses on the whole watershed. Adaptive management strives to achieve water quality standards set for allowable levels of phosphorus in that particular category of waterbody. Compliance through adaptive management is not subject to trade ratios like water quality trading and relies more heavily on in-stream monitoring instead of modeling.

A point source looking to engage in adaptive management or trading will need to undertake a significant amount of planning to encourage participation from local governments, farmers and other non-point sources of phosphorus, and to create a plan to reduce phosphorus runoff in their watershed. While point sources and/or their consultants will lead this effort, we expect that LCDs may be asked to partner in these projects. We've scheduled an adaptive management presentation at the WLWCA annual conference in March. In the meantime, we invite you to view our webinars and other resources at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/phosphorus.html>.

If you're interested in promoting adaptive management or trading in a specific watershed have questions about these options, or have suggestions for how we can make this work better right out of the box, please contact me at Amanda.Minks@Wisconsin.gov, 608-264-9223.

~Amanda Minks, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

WLWCA Technical Committee Held Annual Technical Tour in Waupaca County

The WLWCA Technical Committee hosted a tour of the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery and Waupaca Foundry on September 13. Twenty-two land and water conservation employees and supervisors participated in this year's event. The Wild Rose Fish Hatchery recently went through a state-of-the-art renovation and continues to be the state's leading fish rearing station for trout and salmon. This facility produces over one million Chinook salmon, a half-million Coho salmon, and one million brown trout annually. Most of the cold water fish raised at Wild Rose are released into Lake Michigan. In addition to the production of cold water species, the hatchery's recent expansion included a coolwater incubation and rearing facility for raising pike, sturgeon, walleye and musky. Tour participants also heard how the hatchery was addressing water quality by their filtering and wastewater treatment system and, although delayed due to budget concerns, we heard about future plans to restore wetlands which are at the head of the facilities original rearing and raceway system.

The Waupaca Foundry is the largest producer of gray, ductile, austempered ductile, and compacted graphite iron in the world, melting more than 9,500 tons a day. Although hearing about the foundry and the products they produced was interesting; the reason we toured this facility was to understand how foundry sand was utilized in their process and how it ends up as a waste product. This foundry sand is classified as a Class II industrial byproduct and specific guidelines must be followed (NR 538) for its reuse on farms *i.e.* *Waste Storage Concrete – Soil Composite liner if foundry sand contains a minimum of 5% bentonite; or elsewhere.*

The tour group also visited a site in the City of Waupaca where foundry sand is being utilized to create a sledding hill within Swan Park as part of a beneficial use project. Special thanks to Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Department for their help in setting up this year's tour and covering the cost of lunch. And thanks to the Waupaca Foundry, Beneficial Reuse Management and the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery.

~Paul Sebo, Washington County

Standards Oversight Council Update

Two new teams are getting underway through the Standards Oversight Council process. One team of diverse members is working to develop a new DNR permeable pavement standard that is focused on water quality. The team is reviewing literature and working with researchers and expert technicians across the nation with recent experience in developing similar standards and constructing these systems. The next team meeting is scheduled for mid-January 2013.

NRCS has worked with multiple partners in defining the scope of the Wisconsin NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Revision team, which is slated to be formed by the end of 2012. The DRAFT team charge and the intended scope of its work are posted at www.socwisconsin.org. This document also includes information about the SOC team process and timeline for solicitation of team members. To receive early input on the potential standard revisions for the 590 team, NRCS hosted a **WI NRCS Nutrient Management 590 Revision Announcement** meeting / conference call on Wednesday, November 14th. If you were unable to participate, you can provide initial feedback on the DRAFT scope of the 590 revision team until December 1 to the SOC Coordinator, Gini Knight, at gini@wlwca.org.

For more information or to sign up for SOC updates through our list-serve, 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

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SAVE THE DATE!
The 60th WLWCA Annual Conference
March 11-13, 2013
Chula Vista Resort ~ Wisconsin Dells
Registration Coming Soon!

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Calendar of Events

Thanksgiving Holiday, WLWCA Office Closed	Nov 22-23
Executive Committee Meeting, Appleton	Nov 29
WI Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, Wisconsin Dells	Dec 1-3
GLRI Quality Technical Conference, Chicago, IL	Dec 4
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Dec 4
Professional Improvement & Conference Committee Phone Mtg	Dec 4
Board of Directors Meeting, Stevens Point	Dec 11
Technical Committee Meeting, Stevens Point	Dec 14
Standards Oversight Council Meeting, Madison	Dec 19
Christmas Holiday, WLWCA Office Closed	Dec 24-25
New Year's Holiday, WLWCA Office Closed	Dec 31-Jan1
NACD North Central Region Meeting, Schiller Park, IL	Jan 3-4

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

WLWCA Board of Directors

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WLWCA Staff

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

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