



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 14, Issue 10

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Support County Staffing—Oppose the Lapsed DATCP Allocation NOW!

WLWCA and WALCE have been very busy the past few weeks working with our lobbyist on a grass roots effort to urge legislators to retain the GPR funding for county conservation staff to continue offering the conservation programs available to your constituents as well as maintain their long-standing relationships with your local farmers. Since December 6, members and officers of both the WLWCA and WALCE Boards of Directors as well as LCC and LCD supporters from Columbia, Dodge, Door, Eau Claire, Marinette, Marquette, Outagamie and WLWCA staff have met with 30+ legislators on the Joint Finance and both the Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees as well as Governor Scott Walker, DATCP Secretary Ben Brancel, and representatives of the Department of Administration. We have requested that the Joint Finance Committee object to the DATCP lapsed budget that uses \$1.1 million in GPR staffing funds to cover the lapse and instead transfer \$1.1 million from segregated nutrient management cost-share to the staffing grant. In addition, on December 8 the WLWCA Board of Directors recommended a resolution supporting our strategy that the WLWCA membership passed during the business meeting on December 9. Today, WLWCA delivered a letter to Governor Scott Walker with the signatures of 65+ county land conservation supervisors and staff. Numerous county boards are passing similar resolutions and drafting similar letters to their local representatives as well.

Legislators are looking for real world examples of what the counties are doing on the ground and how the counties are helping get funding to farmers. Many legislators we have met with are asking for their local constituents to contact them regarding this issue. We believe that changes to the current allocation will only occur if we, as the locals, urge legislators to give DATCP a different directive. You can help. Please contact your local legislators. Call them. Write them letters. Schedule appointments with them in your area or at the Capitol. Pass county resolutions that mirror the resolution passed by WLWCA membership last week. Contact your local media. Your voice matters, make it heard. Find your representatives at legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx. Urge them to tell the Joint Finance Committee to oppose the lapsed DATCP allocation plan. Tell them about the good relationship and many good programs county conservation offers to your farmers. County conservation statewide can be retained if we show our strength in numbers. We are anticipating the DOA submitting lapses to the JFC within the next few days and at the latest the year's end. Please contact Kirsten Moore at kirsten@wlwca.org or Kurt Calkins at kurt.calkins@co.columbia.wi.us if you have any questions about how you can spread the word to your local contacts, or if there is anything we can do to help you get your message out. WLWCA is working for you.

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

Conference Wrap-Up

The 58th WLWCA Annual Conference and Business Meeting at Chula Vista included excellent sessions, great discussions and an historic vote. Culminating a year of hard work by the WLWCA/WALCE Ad-Hoc Committee, Resolution #5 passed, with members resoundingly supporting merging WLWCA with WALCE and the repeal and recreation of the WLWCA Bylaws. The next step will be a vote at the WALCE conference on February 29. If WALCE also approves the merger, the current board members will serve on an interim WLWCA Board of Directors under the new bylaws until the board is reorganized following the April 2012 county board elections.

At the conference members and colleagues from across Wisconsin learned about lake sturgeon management at the opening session and welcomed keynote speaker Eric Eckl, founder of Water Words That Work, who presented "The World Outside: What They Say About Why Your Work Matters." Breakout sessions included informative discussions on timely responses to invasive species, the Working Lands Initiative, Dane County's manure management, and a special screening of the movie *Green Fire – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*.

The Thursday banquet included award winning speeches from the winners of the 2011 Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest: Gretchen Bygd and David Bognar from Barron County and Cassandra Hoger from Oneida County. Pat Laughrin from Calumet County was honored with the Supervisor of the Year Award, and Rusk County Conservationist Paula Carow was given a special recognition award for her 32 years of dedicated and spirited leadership.

The majority of the annual business meeting was dedicated to the resolutions. Resolution #1, which asks legislators and the North Central Region of NACD to enact a policy to help reduce and move toward prevention of phosphorus loading to Green Bay and Lake Michigan was approved.

Resolution #2, which requests that the agricultural tax classification on lands enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program be retained, was approved.

Resolution #3, which requests increased resources be directed to prevent Asian carp from spreading, was also approved.

Resolution #4, which asks that changes be made to conservation practice standards incorporating recommended adaptations for climate change, passed.

As discussed above, Resolution #5 supporting the WLWCA/WALCE merger, easily passed.

Resolution #6 was submitted as a floor resolution and opposes further land conservation staffing grant cuts. This resolution was also easily passed.

Stay tuned to see the new direction WLWCA will take if the proposed merging of associations is also approved by WALCE. 2012 will be an exciting year as WLWCA continues to evolve and move forward.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

2011 Youth Education Silent Auction Supports 2012 Poster and Speaking Contest

The 2011 Youth Education Silent Auction held during the WLWCA Annual Conference brought in a cumulative \$2,082 in funds to support the 2012 State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest. The State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest is 100% funded from this fundraising event, which is supported by donated items and bids from the counties. Please see page three for a list of donors. To all the counties and exhibitors who brought items and conference attendees who placed bids: thank you for your support!

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

2012 Wisconsin Envirothon Currently Seeking Sponsors, Volunteers

The 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon 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, which will be held following the Wisconsin Green Schools Network Youth Summit scheduled Thursday, April 19 for middle and high school aged students. 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. Contact Kirsten at the WLWCA office for more details at kirsten@wlwca.org.

The 2012 Envirothon current issue is "Going Green With Low Impact Development (LID) Technology To Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution." The team presentation scenario will focus specifically on the current issue and testing stations will also include questions pertaining to nonpoint source pollution and the use of LID.

The 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon will welcome middle school students as well as high school students this year, recognizing winners from both divisions. The winning team from the high school division of the 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon will attend the Canon Envirothon July 22-28 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. The 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon, so far, has been made possible by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education. We still need more support! If you have creative ideas for supporting Wisconsin Envirothon, we would love to hear from you. Please visit www.envirothonwi.org to find out more about Wisconsin Envirothon.

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

Hiring of SOC Coordinator

WLWCA and the Standards Oversight Council are currently seeking a SOC Coordinator. This full-time position will serve as Technical Standards Work Team Coordinator of the SOC and provide assistance to the technical standards work teams. The position will manage and facilitate the activities of the work teams, provide updates to the Council, and serve as the statewide coordinator for the Council's activities. The position description and application instructions can be found on the SOC web site at www.socwisconsin.org. The application deadline is Friday, January 13 at 4:30 pm.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

SOC Update

The NRCS 313 Waste Storage Facility technical standard team continues to go through comments and has meetings scheduled for December and January, with a March 1 targeted release date. The 634 Waste Transfer standard is basically ready to go and is waiting until the completion of 313.

The 629 Waste Treatment standard is now available for broad review. Public comments concerning proposed changes to the technical criteria in Section C – Specific Criteria for Feed Storage Leachate and Runoff Control – are being accepted until December 19, 2011. Visit <http://www.socwisconsin.org/review.html> to view the draft standards and to submit comments.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Thank You To Our Youth Education Silent Auction Donors!

AmericInn of Ashland, Apple Barn Orchard & Winery, Ashland County, Ashland Lake Superior Lodge, Badgerland Roofing, Baraboo Candy Company, Blue Heron Brew Pub, Cabela's, Calumet County, Circus World Museum, Clarence Viegut, Clark County LCC and Forestry & Parks Department, DHH Designs, Don Koerner, Duluth Pottery, Eckstein's Woodcarvings, Florence County/Margie Yadro, Gar-Git-R Charters, Grant County Fair Committee, Holiday Inn Harborview, Hotel Chequamegon, Insinkerator, Jelly Bean Corporation, Lafayette County LCD, Lake Arrowhead Association, Lake Lawn Resort, Langlade County LCD, Michael Cotter/Elkhorn Kiwanis Club, Mid-Continent Railway, Middleton High School Envirothon, Morgan's Trees & Wreaths, Mt. Olympus Water, Oneida County UW-Extension/LCC, Original Wisconsin Ducks, Outagamie County, Ozaukee County Planning & Parks, Richland County LCC and LCD, Riesterer & Schnell, Robin Leary, Rust-Oleum Corporation, Ruth Moody, Sauk County CPZ and Parks Department, Schlosser's Sugar Farm, Seneca/Clyman, Sloan Implement, St. Croix County, Staller Estate Winery, Summit Mill, Super 8 Motel, Tami Schraufnagel, Taylor County LCC and LCD, Top Secret, Uncle Josh Bait Company, UW-Eau Claire, Washington County LCC, Waupaca County LWCD, Waushara County LCD & Zoning, and Wisconsin Quality Deer Mgt.

We appreciate your supporting the Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contests!



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Calendar of Events

NACD NC Region Conference, Chicago, IL	Jan 5-6
LWLWCA Winter Meeting, Oshkosh	Jan 27
Canon Envirothon Winter Meeting, Las Vegas, NV	Jan 27-29
NACD Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV	Jan 29-Feb 1
SOC Meeting, Madison	Feb 3
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Feb 7
WALCE Conference	Feb 29-Mar 2

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

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WLWCA Staff

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