

**MINUTES**  
**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**August 5, 2014**  
**DATCP Board Room**  
**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
**2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, Wisconsin**

**Item #1      Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, roll call, appointment of a Secretary for the meeting, approval of agenda, approval of April 1, 2014 LWCB meeting minutes.**

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Cupp, Tom Rudolph, Lynn Harrison, Eric Birschbach, Joe Piechowski, Mary Anne Lowndes, Caitlin Frederick, John Petty and advisor Jim Vanden Brook (WLWCA) were present at DATCP. Advisors Kurt Calkins (WLWCA), Sheryl Paczwa (NRCS) and Francisco Arriaga (UW-CALS) participated via teleconference. Castelnovo, Trumble and Vosburg were present for DATCP.

Vosburg confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed, as required.

Cupp appointed Harrison to serve as Secretary for the meeting.

Rudolph moved to approve the agenda as presented. Harrison seconded. The motion carried. Petty moved to accept the April 1, 2014 meeting minutes. Rudolph seconded. The motion carried.

**Item #2      Public Appearances**

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No public appearance cards were submitted.

**Item #3      Report on the preliminary 2015 DATCP and DNR joint allocation plan**

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Regarding DATCP's portion of the 2015 preliminary allocation, Castelnovo reported that there is about \$8.8 million available for staffing grant awards. The source of funding for this allocation has shifted slightly in the second year of the biennium, consisting of a little more in GPR funds and a little less in SEG funds. The total dollar amount for the two allocations during the present biennium was based on a two-year increase approved by the Joint Finance Committee during the budget process. This increase did not permanently increase the base appropriations for future allocations. DATCP has less bond cost share funds available for 2015 as result of past underspending that is lower than in previous years. DATCP has made training support a priority in awarding cooperator grants with the goal of facilitating the Nutrient Management Farmer Education grant, reviving of the statewide interagency training committee, and promoting educational opportunities focused on technical standards and conservation programming.

DATCP changed the criteria for the staffing grant formula in the 2015 grant application. In order to claim funding for the first position, counties must submit for a position performing 95% conservation work. DATCP is proposing additional changes in the formula starting with the 2016 allocation. The Board raised concerns that invasive species work is not specifically defined as a conservation activity under the new staffing grant parameters. This guideline will affect who qualifies for the grant, especially in northern counties. Lowndes indicated that DNR has a much broader list of priorities for conservation activities. DATCP and DNR will continue discussions on coordinating adequate support for non-farm conservation activities. VandenBrook would like to see DATCP and DNR take a unified position on "qualifying activities."

Regarding DNR's portion of the allocation, Lowndes indicated that there will be about \$2.2 million available for Targeted Runoff Management grants, \$1 million in the Notice of Discharge reserve and about \$200,000 available for urban non-point source and storm water management grants. It is possible that DNR might fund some more projects after reconciling its books.

No action required.

**Item #4      Runoff Management Program; Targeted Runoff Management and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Grants**

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Lowndes presented the rankings for the Targeted Runoff Management and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water grants. A correction was submitted for the small-scale TMDL applications table. Funding has not been finalized for these grants programs at present; the rankings are intended to point out where the applicants stand. It is expected that there will be about \$1 million in funding for both categories.

No action required.

**Item #5      Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Marquette County Land and Water Resource Management Plan**

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Pat Kilbey, County Conservationist for Marquette County Land and Water Conservation Department, made a presentation in support of the county's request for a 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Kilbey highlighted the following goals for the county:

- 1) Maintain present level of agriculture
- 2) Protect the water quality of groundwater, lakes, streams and rivers and identify water quantity issues
- 3) Enhance in-stream, riparian, wetland and upland habitats
- 4) Protect county resources through proper waste management

Kilbey highlighted the county baseflow monitoring project and the success of the collaboration between Marquette, Adams, Waushara, Waupaca, Wood and Portage counties. Marquette County is using an AIS coordinator hired by the Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council. This individual works between Marquette and Green Lake counties.

Piechowski moved to approve Marquette County 5-year extension request as presented. Birschbach seconded. The motion carried.

**Item #6      Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Ashland County Land and Water Resource Management Plan**

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Tom Fratt, County Conservationist for Ashland County Land Conservation Department, made a presentation in support of the county's request for a 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Fratt highlighted the following goals for the county:

- 1) Protect and enhance quality of surface and groundwater resources
- 2) Conserve and enhance terrestrial resources
- 3) Protect and improve aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats
- 4) Provide conservation information and education to landowners, local governments, nongovernmental organizations and general public through county partnerships

Fratt reviewed county success stories involving grade stabilization, wetland restoration and water/sediment control on the WITC campus. Fratt also anticipated the expansion of participation in the farmland preservation program with a newly established agricultural enterprise area in the county.

Rudolph moved to approve the Ashland County 5-year extension request as presented. Harrison seconded. The motion carried.

**Item #7 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Bayfield County Land and Water Resource Management Plan**

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Ben Dufford, Director for Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department, made a presentation in support of the county's request for a 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Dufford highlighted the following goals for the county:

- 1) Protect and enhance surface water, wetland and groundwater to maintain water quality, ecologic functions and recreational aesthetic values
- 2) Reduce environmental damage from invasive species to aquatic and terrestrial habitats
- 3) Protect, restore and enhance wildlife habitats in forests, lakes and streams
- 4) Increase natural resource education and Department outreach opportunities
- 5) Ensure adequate supervisory, staff and financial resources to effectively implement LWRM Plan goals, objectives and activities

Dufford discussed the success of the AIS program, highlighting the county boat inspection program, portable high pressure washing system, contacts at boat landings and invasive species control intern program. Dufford also featured the Whittlesey Creek Restoration and stream restoration Project on the Iron River. Dufford is working with 18 grants in the county to ensure the Department is able to meet its land and water resource management goals.

Rudolph moved to approve the Bayfield County 5-year extension request as presented. Frederick seconded. The motion carried.

**Item #9 ATCP 50 Update**

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Castelnuovo made a presentation on ATCP 50: *Soil and Water Resource Management Program* that went into effect on May 1, 2014. The Board may submit comments on the proposed rule revision to Vosburg or Castelnuovo until September 5, 2014.

No action required.

**Item #10 Report on 2013 program accomplishments by counties**

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Lisa Schultz presented the 2013 Wisconsin Land and Water Annual Progress Report on behalf of DATCP and DNR. The report focuses on the diversity of different natural resource and agricultural issues across the state. The Board offered overwhelmingly positive feedback.

No action required.

**Item #11 Agency Reports**

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**NRCS-** Paczwa reported on the positive response to the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program which will provide conservation funding assistance to partners through NRCS and program contracts with producers. The pre-proposal phase has concluded. Selected pre-proposals have been invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals are due October 3, 2014.

**UW-CALS-Arriaga** highlighted Dean VandenBosch's Strategic Planning Initiative. The college has developed a series of workshops to further develop priority focus areas. Topical subjects include: healthy ecosystems, food systems, economic and community development, changing climate, basic sciences and bioenergy /bio products.

**WLWCA-** VandenBrook announced the 2014-2016 WLWCA Board of Directors. There will be a special election to appoint a replacement for Chuck Wagner. WLWCA is watching the Standards Oversight Council review of NRCS technical standard 590.

**DATCP-** Petty indicated that DATCP is finalizing preparations for the technical review committee for the livestock siting rule. The first meeting is expected to be held in September.

DATCP successfully submitted a pre-proposal in conjunction with the Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri State Departments of Agriculture to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The group requested \$16.5 million in funding. The group has been invited to submit a full proposal. In total, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program received 600 requests totaling \$2.5 billion. There is \$400 million in funding available.

**DNR-** Lowndes indicated that Joe Baeten has been hired to fill a Nutrient Management Planning position. Baeten was formerly employed as a Water Resources Management Specialist at the Green Bay DNR Service Center.

Cupp indicated that attempts to fill Denny Canneff's position on the Board have not been successful.

**Item #12      Adjourn**

Rudolph moved to adjourn, Frederick seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn E Harrison      Oct 15, 2014  
Lynn Harrison, Secretary      Date  
Recorder: KV