

**MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**December 2, 2014
Room 90 & 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 October 7, 2014 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Cupp, Tom Rudolph, Eric Birschbach, George Mika, Andrew Craig (for DNR), Caitlin Frederick, John Petty and advisors Jim Vanden Brook (WLWCA), Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS) were present at DATCP. Member Robin Leary participated via teleconference. Castelnovo, Trumble and Vosburg were present for DATCP.

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

Cupp appointed Birschbach to serve as Secretary for the meeting.

Rudolph moved to approve the agenda as presented. Frederick seconded. The motion carried. Frederick moved to accept the October 7, 2014 meeting minutes. Petty seconded. The motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Vernon County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Paul Krahn, County Conservationist, and Ben Wojahn, Assistant County Conservationist, made a presentation in support of the county's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Krahn and Wojahn highlighted the success of federal work-study programs to support conservation interns, department outreach with the local Amish population and students, and restorations of sites impacted by significant storm events. They stated that EQIP priority rankings, adaptive management, nutrient trading and agricultural use value taxation would be significant issues on their horizon. Staff indicated that critical needs in the department include more staff, more reliable funding and a conservation tracking system.

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

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Langlade County

Marie Graupner, County Conservationist, Duane Haakenson, Director of Land Records and Regulations, and Fred Heider, Planner, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, made a presentation in support of the county's updated LWRM plan. The county

submitted a 5-year plan, indicating that the plan would be revised in 2020 when the county comprehensive plan will be updated. The next plan will be a ten year plan.

The county highlighted the successful implementation of an invasive species inventory program, annual nutrient management trainings and the development of the Antigo Flats AEA.

The county stressed the following goals:

- 1) Protect and improve surface and groundwater
- 2) Promote working forest and farms
- 3) Control terrestrial and aquatic invasive species
- 4) Protect public health from chemical waste
- 5) Develop an online presence for public education
- 6) Improve silvaculture
- 7) Manage wildlife conflicts

Rudolph moved to approve the Langlade County 5-year plan as presented. Frederick seconded. The motion carried.

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

Davina Bonness, County Conservationist, made a presentation in support of the county's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Bonness highlighted the county's goal of implementing NR 151 agricultural nonpoint source pollution control standards and prohibitions, farmland preservation program soil and water conservation standards, and local ordinances to help protect local surface and groundwater quality.

Bonness noted the successful development of nutrient management plans for all farmland preservation program tax credit claimants in Kewaunee County between 2010 and 2014 (100 new plans), 10 manure storage abandonments and 11 well abandonments. Limited soil depth, nutrient management and groundwater quality are significant challenges in the county.

Birschbach moved to approve the Kewaunee County 5-year extension request as presented. Mika seconded. The motion carried.

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

Dave Ferris, County Conservationist, made a presentation in support of the county's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Ferris featured the following goals for the county:

- 1) Protect agricultural lands from development
- 2) Mitigate waterfront development impacts
- 3) Control aquatic invasive species
- 4) Address groundwater quality and quantity issues
- 5) Protect wild lake and river shorelines as well as critical watershed areas

Ferris highlighted county successes including 50 miles of shoreline preservation, some 117,747 square feet of shoreline restoration, and support activities for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program to combat aquatic invasive species.

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

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. for a lunch break. The meeting resumed at 12:35 p.m.

Item #9 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Portage County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Steve Bradley, County Conservationist, made a presentation in support of the county's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Bradley recorded success with public outreach tied to scholarships for youth education camps and participation in the conservation poster contest. The county has had about 50 participants drop out of the farmland preservation program during the last 5 years. Many claimants have struggled to reconcile the cost of the nutrient management plan with the monetary benefit received from the program. Bradley noted some outstanding need for TRM grant funding in Portage County.

Bradley discussed the following goals for the county:

- 1) Reduce the decline of groundwater quality due to rural and urban factors
- 2) Protect and restore lakes, rivers, shorelands, wetlands, and uplands for wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreational use
- 3) Reduce wind erosion

Mika moved to approve the Burnett County 5-year extension request as presented. Petty seconded. The motion carried.

Item #10 Report from LWCB Officers

The Board recognized Rudolph's service and dedication to the Board and land and water conservation issues in the state of Wisconsin.

Vosburg made a presentation in support of changes to the bylaws reflecting technology updates and the manner in which officers are nominated during the annual election. The Board raised concerns pertaining to the legality of member discussion of officers' candidacy outside of recognized meetings. DATCP agreed to provide guidance on this matter. Petty moved to accept the slate of bylaw changes as submitted. Rudolph seconded. The Board decided to accept nominations for officers from the floor at the February 2015 meeting rather than hold a separate officers nominating committee meeting.

Item #11 Approval of Proposed 2015 LWCB Annual Agenda

Vosburg presented the proposed 2015 annual agenda. Mika moved to approve the proposed annual agenda with the condition that meetings will be held on the dates listed in Madison or at an alternative location to be determined by the Chair. Birschbach seconded. The motion carried.

Item #12 Agency Reports

NRCS- Bramblett indicated that in the future, the allocation of NRCS dollars in Wisconsin will be more closely tied to performance factors. Based on a 2013 internal audit, NRCS has found that they have not received sufficient documentation to justify paying landowners for nutrient management plans. It was also noted that the allocation for EQIP Cost share for manure storage has dropped from \$10 million to \$4.5 million.

Bramblett also announced the retirement of Renae Anderson, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist for the State of Wisconsin.

WLWCA- VandenBrook discussed the new county conservation staff training in November. DNR, DATCP and UW-Extension staff made introductory presentations for new staff. It is expected that there will be a greater emphasis on nutrient management trainings in collaboration with DATCP moving forward. The Pleasant Valley Project in the Pecatonica River Watershed is successfully demonstrating phosphorus reduction.

VandenBrook informed the Board that Pat Sutter, Dane County Conservationist, will be retiring on December 8th.

DATCP- Petty noted that the NRCS announcement on RCCP awards has been pushed back to January 15th. Petty requested that an item be included on the February agenda for discussion of what each Board member contributes to the mission of the Board.

DNR- Craig introduced himself as the Non-point Source Planning Coordinator. Craig indicated that the 2015 TRM grant application will be posted online on January 15th. This application is new and feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Item #13 Planning for February Meeting

Cupp requested that the following items be included on the agenda for the next meeting: crazy worms presentation, alternative funding presentation including AIS funding.

Item #14 Adjourn

Rudolph moved to adjourn, Petty seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric Birschbach, Secretary
Recorder: KV

2/3/15

Date