

**MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**October 7, 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.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Cupp, Tom Rudolph, Lynn Harrison, Eric Birschbach, George Mika, Mary Anne Lowndes, Caitlin Frederick, John Petty and advisors Jim Vanden Brook (WLWCA), Greg Biba (FSA), Tom Krapf (NRCS) were present at DATCP. Member Joe Piechowski and Advisor Kurt Calkins (WLWCA) participated via teleconference. Castelnuovo, Trumble and Vosburg were present for DATCP.

Cupp welcomed new member, George Mika, to the Board.

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.

Rudolph moved to accept the August 5, 2014 meeting minutes. Frederick seconded. The motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 2015 DATCP and DNR final allocation plan (EA and comments on the preliminary allocation)

Castelnuovo made a report on the comments concerning the 2015 Preliminary Joint Allocation Plan. Comments were submitted primarily from landowners and lake organizations. No comments were received from the counties. The primary concern received was tied to ineligibility of counties to claim a first position with duties related to invasive species information and education (“I&E”). The final allocation includes an explanation that indicates that a county may obtain reimbursement for I&E work by a first position even if the county cannot count that person’s work toward earning its annual allocation. Rudolph noted that most of the comments were submitted from the northern part of the state, where water resources are critical to the regional economy and where invasive species work is of serious concern.

Castelnuovo clarified that a county may count the technical work of the first position related to aquatic invasive species in claiming its annual allocation, and may claim I&E activities of the second position to increase its annual allocation. DNR has separate programs that would better provide funding for invasive species programs at the county level. The Board suggested that there were advantages to be gained from involving other DNR programs more completely in the joint allocation process.

Cupp requested that an item be included on the December agenda for discussion of DNR funding to counties such as grants related to aquatic invasive species.

Except for an explanation regarding reimbursement of I&E activities, DATCP made no changes to the final allocation plan. Landowner cost-share grants are lower than they've ever been on the bond side at \$3.3 million, with \$200,000 set aside for NOI projects. This is primarily attributed to less underspending by the counties. Nutrient management cost sharing will continue to be funded at about \$2 million per year. An extension project to expand county staff and training will also be funded.

DNR explained its changes from the preliminary plan, indicating that about \$120,000 will be allocated to urban planning grants in the counties. TRM construction grants will be funded at about \$2.7 million. There were quite a bit more requests received than were able to be funded. About \$1 million has been set aside for NOD funds. Lowndes anticipated that DNR would bring a report on the NOD program to the Board in December.

Frederick moved to approve the 2015 Joint Allocation Plan. Birschbach seconded. The motion was opposed by Rudolph. The motion carried.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Dan Masterpole, County Conservationist for Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management Department, made a presentation in support of the county's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Masterpole highlighted the implementation of a farm evaluation and certification program for nonpoint runoff on farms, work with industry partners such as Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company to accomplish voluntary water conservation initiatives and county implementation of elements of the CREP program. The county has recorded a shift of focus for soil and water conservation staff towards non-metallic mining reclamation services.

Masterpole highlighted the following goals for the county:

- 1) Evaluate opportunities to expand educational and technical assistance programs
- 2) Establish and institutionalize environmental monitoring
- 3) Develop institutional capacities and relationships to improve local resource management and conservation decision making

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

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

Christine Ostern, County Conservationist for the Douglas County Land and Water Conservation Department, made a presentation in support of the county's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan.

Ostern highlighted the following goals for the county:

- 1) Protect and enhance surface waters and wetlands

- 2) Protect and understand groundwater
- 3) Prevent, control and educate regarding aquatic invasive species

Ostern reviewed successful stream bank stabilization projects on the Amnicon River and at the Lyman Lake outlet, the shoreline restoration of Amnicon Lake and the Upper Ox Creek Restoration Project which partnered the county with NRCS, USFWS, DNR and the work crew from the Gordon Correctional Facility.

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

Item #6 Recommendation for approval of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Vilas County

Carolynn Scholl, County Conservationist for the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, made a presentation in support of the plan revision submitted for Vilas County.

Scholl presented the following goals for the county:

- 1) Expand public knowledge of natural resource information and stewardship
- 2) Protect aquatic and terrestrial environments from non-point source pollutants
- 3) Protect aquatic, terrestrial and wetland ecosystems from invasive species
- 4) Organize sites of concern within watersheds, wetlands, lakes and forests
- 5) Attend to state and local conservation funding and policy issues

Scholl noted a successful groundwater monitoring (bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, lead, pH, chloride, etc.) project, achievements through the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership, as well as citizen volunteer trainings.

Rudolph moved to approve the Plan submitted by Vilas County as presented. Harrison seconded. The motion carried.

Item #7 Agency Reports

FSA- Biba reported that he was on the national taskforce working on the new dairy law. The Average Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) Program, which is set to replace some direct payments eliminated by the current farm bill is up and running. There was no general signup for CRP after the farm bill passed but existing contracts have been offered extensions. This year, 14,000 CRP acres have been extended across the state but 32,000 more are set to expire. There may be a general signup for CRP in the spring. CRP payments will start to be issued this week.

NRCS- Krapf indicated that RCCP selections will be made in mid-November. NRCS is focusing on increasing the presence of local workgroups (the counties are divided into 20 workgroups) in setting the priorities for EQIP funds around the state.

WLWCA- VandenBrook indicated that UW-Extension is working with counties to network with municipalities to do training for non-point source reduction. Manure irrigation workgroups are meeting.

