



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 13, Issue 3

Thursday, April 15, 2010

It's a Wonderful Life

When WLWCA was in its hour of need, our membership came to the rescue in a way that is both humbling and heartwarming. The budget scenario for 2010 was stark; it looked like the budget would have another \$40,000 deficit. Rather than risk more layoffs or losing staff people, WLWCA members rallied around the organization and agreed to donate additional funds to the organization. In all, 41 counties provided a "special assessment." Most donated the requested \$800, but several counties went beyond that figure. Furthermore, four area associations and one RC&D donated to the cause one RC&D. Add to that the \$7500 grant received from Patagonia Company and a membership increase from 65 to 66 counties; we can confidently state that WLWCA will be open for business throughout 2010.

For 2011, the situation is still dicey. Since the special assessment was intended to be a one-time event, we will discuss a dues increase at the next WLWCA Board of Directors' meeting. We continue to apply for grants from foundations and companies as we continue to search for stable funding sources to operate WLWCA into the future.

Thank you for all your support during these tough economic times. Special thanks to Tom Davies of Winnebago County, who has been preaching the gospel of county conservation and WLWCA to other like-minded organizations and clubs, resulting in new donors. **If your county hasn't joined WLWCA membership for 2010, the deadline to submit is May 31.**

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Spring Primary Elections Bring Changes to the Makeup of WLWCA Membership

On April 6, county supervisors statewide were up for reelection. That means it is time for the membership of WLWCA to be in close contact with the association about forthcoming changes and the makeup of the 2010-2012 WLWCA board of directors.

- **LCD Staff:** please submit a new list of land conservation committee (LCC) members after your first county board organizational meeting in April to Kirsten at the WLWCA office (kirsten@wlwca.org) and Lori Price at DATCP (lori.price@wisconsin.gov). Make sure that you include for each LCC member their full name, address, city, zip code, preferred telephone number and Email address. We also want to know who has been appointed LCC chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. LCCs include FSA representatives and often citizen members. Please don't forget to include them on your list. This is also a great time to update us on any changes to your LCD staff over the past two years.
- **Area Associations:** Please elect your WLWCA board member AND WLWCA board alternate as soon after the elections as possible. According to WLWCA bylaws, board members serve two years or *until a successor is named*, and should be appointed by the areas by June 20 in even numbered years. Once you know who your board member and board alternate will be, please submit their name, county, address, city, zip code, preferred telephone number and Email address to Kirsten at the WLWCA office (kirsten@wlwca.org). *WLWCA board members can be any person serving on a county LCC.*
- **Area Associations:** Usually the spring primary elections bring changes to the makeup of your area associations. Once your new area association coordinator is selected, please have them submit to Kirsten at the WLWCA office (kirsten@wlwca.org) a new list of area association officers: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and staff coordinator. Include their name, county, address, city, zip code, preferred telephone number and Email address.

On **Wednesday, June 23** from 12:00-4:30, the WLWCA board has scheduled a face-to-face meeting in conjunction with Conservation Observance Day in the vicinity of Frankfort (Marathon County). WLWCA board members are encouraged to stay and attend Conservation Observance Day. **We hope to see as many 2010-2012 WLWCA board members as possible at this board meeting.** WLWCA staff will send the approved agenda to the LCD list serve and area association coordinators when available so that newly appointed board members or alternates can make arrangements to join us.

Finally, if you are leaving your LCC, and no longer wish to receive *Thursday Note*, please notify Kirsten at the WLWCA office (kirsten@wlwca.org) and we will remove you from our mailing list. Thank you for your land and water conservation service and support!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Conservation Observance Day – June 24

Join us at Peter and Suzie Arnold's dairy farm in Marathon County on June 24 for a fun and informative celebration. There will be farm tours, speakers, lunch and exhibits. More information will be provided later this spring. Mark your calendars!

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Would Your County Like Their 2011 Dues Waived?

As part of WLWCA's Conservation Awards program, the WLWCA board is promoting the Conservation Farmer of the Year award by waiving 2011 WLWCA dues for the county that submits the state winner. You have plenty of time to think about a worthy nominee in your county, as nominations should be submitted at the area level by August 27, with the area winner submitted to WLWCA by October 22. The other award being offered is for Outstanding Supervisor. It only takes a few minutes to nominate a supervisor and show your appreciation for the outstanding work they do. Nominations must be submitted to WLWCA by October 22.

Information and applications for these awards can be found at www.wlwca.org under *WLWCA Programs/Conservation Awards*. Please take the time to recognize a farmer or supervisor in your county who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help preserve Wisconsin's natural resources. Contact Chris at the WLWCA office (chrisschlutt@wlwca.org) if you have any questions.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

2010 WLWCA Annual Conference Calls for Planning Committee Members, Volunteers

As you may have noticed, WLWCA makes changes to the WLWCA Annual Conference in sync with the changing needs of the organization. In the past, WLWCA conferences were three days and rotated amongst the various areas. Over the years, attendees submitted conference evaluations, talked with their WLWCA board members and have come to the conclusion that three days are not as affordable anymore. Furthermore, our conference has grown over the years in a way where traveling to the various areas is not sustainable. For example, some areas do not have conference facilities appropriate for our organization's size and needs. And some counties do not allow travel beyond a certain distance statewide.

That said, the WLWCA board has elected to hold upcoming conferences in a central location in the state. In 2010 and 2011, that will be the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

When WLWCA rotated areas, WLWCA called on the counties in those areas to become the conference planning committee and volunteers. Since we are abandoning that system, WLWCA is now calling on the entire membership for your input and ideas.

Are you interested in shaping the agenda for the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference? Do you have great ideas about breakout sessions that will help land conservation committees and departments with their conservation efforts? Do you want to help organize our Youth Education Silent and Live Auctions or lead the spouse tour? Do you enjoy meeting people at the registration table? Contact Kirsten at the WLWCA office (kirsten@wlwca.org) to get involved! Anyone

associated with our organization can step up to help out: LCC members, LCD staff, agencies, nonprofit partners, anyone! It takes a village to run a conference, and we appreciate your support!

A conference call will be scheduled in early May to discuss a preliminary conference agenda and potential breakout sessions. We will hold 2-3 conference calls in total. Groups that put forward volunteers will be recognized as cooperating partners for the conference. Land conservation staff attending the conference strictly to volunteer only need to pay for the meals they wish to order and will be allowed to attend one session of his or her choice on the day of volunteering. Don't miss this fun opportunity to get involved with your state conservation association! Volunteer to help the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference today!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Wisconsin Envirothon Update

The 2010 Wisconsin Envirothon is ready to go on April 30 at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) in Amherst Junction. Ten teams from Appleton West High School, Conserve School (Land O' Lakes), James Madison Memorial High School, Luxemburg-Casco High School, Middleton High School and Newman Catholic High School (Wausau) have registered for this year's event: Protection of Groundwater Through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning. WLWCA wishes all the teams the best of luck and we are excited to see which team will attend the Canon Envirothon August 1-6 at California State University-Fresno!

Have you ever considered starting a Wisconsin Envirothon team? Or, do you want to find more ways to support our program via volunteerism or funding? Visit the 2010 Wisconsin Envirothon and find out what it's all about! We are now accepting guest registrations for \$15, covering your lunch and the day fee at CWES. Guests will have time to see the stations in action, view the oral presentations, and meet the advisors and volunteers that make Wisconsin Envirothon happen. Contact Kirsten at the WLWCA office (kirsten@wlwca.org) to register as a guest.

The 2010 Wisconsin Envirothon is made possible by many volunteers and funders, including Wisconsin Energy Foundation, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Canon Envirothon, and Bradshaw-Knight Foundation, to name a few. Visit our Web site at www.wlwca.org and click on *Get information on the 2010 Wisconsin Envirothon* to view the competition's current issue oral scenario and a complete list of our sponsors. You can also become a fan of Wisconsin Envirothon on Facebook!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

SOC Update

The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) work team charged with creating a new Infiltration Trench technical standard for the Department of Commerce has completed the Broad Review phase of standard development. Once final changes to the draft standard are approved by the work team, the final draft of the new standard will be delivered to the custodian agency for review and acceptance.

The new SOC Web site, which was re-designed by staff at UW-Extension's Environmental Resources Center, is now live and operational. The new Web site has been simplified to 13 basic Web pages that reduces duplication and is easier to navigate. To view the site, visit www.socwisconsin.org.

SOC currently is hammering out a strategy for revising the Feed Storage Leachate and Runoff Control provisions of the Wisconsin NRCS 629 Waste Treatment technical standard. The intent will be to revise the existing standard and draft companion document to reflect lessons learned since the feed storage leachate provisions were finalized in 2008. Among the changes that a SOC work team will consider are new criteria or guidance for systems required to comply with more stringent discharge standards, such as the WPDES permit requirements.

~Kevin Hogan, SOC Coordinator



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Calendar of Events

GLNAC Compressed Video Conference	Apr 19
NACD Stewardship Week	Apr 25-May 2
WLWCA BOD Conference Call	Apr 26
Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Stormwater Conf, Kimberly	Apr 28-30
WI Envirothon, Amherst Junction	Apr 30
GLNAC Compressed Video Conference	May 17
WLWCA BOD Conference Call	May TBD
NACD Executive Directors Conf, Washington State	May 26-28
LWCB Meeting & Public Forum, Stevens Point	June 1
WLWCA Conservation Camp, Bruce	June 22-25
WLWCA Board Meeting, Frankfort	June 23
Conservation Observance Day, Frankfort	June 24
Sand Lake Conservation Camp	June 24-26

*For more information, visit www.wlwca.org and click on
"What's Going On?"*

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Executive Director
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Standards Oversight Council Coordinator
Chris Schlutt
Program Coordinator

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