



# Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 13, Issue 5

Thursday, June 10, 2010

## Changes on the WLWCA Board of Directors

Every two years, Wisconsin has county elections for Board of Supervisors, and it's not surprising that WLWCA sees changes in our Board of Directors also. The dust has not yet settled as some areas have not yet met as of this writing, but a couple of changes are already known.

Pat Laughrin of Calumet County, after many years of valuable service to WLWCA, has chosen to retire from our Board. We are very grateful for Pat's active and committed service to conservation and wish him well for the future. The Lake Winnebago Area Association has selected Waushara County's Joe Piechowski as the new representative to the WLWCA. Welcome Joe!

News from Buffalo County is that Allen Carothers was not named chair of the LCC, so according to county policy, he is no longer the Buffalo County representative to the West Central Area Association. The consequence is that he will not be returning to the WLWCA Board. Allen has served very effectively as the President of the Board of Directors for the past two years and leaves some big shoes to fill. There is no word yet on who the new WLWCA board member from West Central will be.

The Lake Michigan Area Association has announced that Chuck Wagner of Kewaunee County is their new board member. Welcome Chuck! Chuck succeeds Jack Van Dixhorn of Sheboygan county. We appreciate Jack's contribution to our Board. He has provided long time service to WLWCA and has represented the Lake Michigan interests well.

Change can be challenging, but it is also essential for an organization to grow and renew. This is an exciting time for the WLWCA Board of Directors.

If your area association has not yet met, please remember to elect a WLWCA Board member and an alternate and let us know who they are.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

## Land Conservation Committee and Area Association Contact Information Reminder

WLWCA is still seeking updates to county land conservation committee rosters. Even if there are no changes to your LCC's personnel, we would like to reaffirm the names, addresses, phone numbers, and Email addresses of all your LCC members. This will not only ensure that all the people on your current LCC receive WLWCA notices, but that our address list is as up to date as possible. Save your state land and water conservation nonprofit money by making sure we have accurate mailing and contact information for all your LCC supervisors.

We are also awaiting information on changes to all area land and water conservation associations. WLWCA requests a list including your area president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and area coordinator. **We also request that all areas appoint a WLWCA board member AND WLWCA board alternate at your next scheduled area meeting. If your area has already appointed a WLWCA board member and alternate, please Email [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) ASAP to ensure that your area's most current WLWCA board member receives information about the upcoming joint WLWCA/WALCE board meeting in Marshfield on June 24 in conjunction with Conservation Observance Day.** Even though we have heard informal reports of new WLWCA board members having been appointed, no areas have formally updated their officer or WLWCA board information with WLWCA. WLWCA hopes that all areas will have appointed a board member in time to plan for attending the August 18 WLWCA board meeting where the board intends to elect officers.

As of printing, we would like to thank Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Buffalo, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Lafayette, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marquette, Pierce, Portage, Racine, Sauk, Shawano, Vernon, Waupaca, Winnebago, and Wood Counties for submitting their current LCC information to our office. Just 45 counties left to go! We appreciate your help keeping us up to date about our current membership!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

**WLWCA and WALCE Boards to Meet**

The Boards of Directors of WLWCA and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) are due to meet at the next scheduled WLWCA Board meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Marshfield. The purpose of the meeting is to explore the possibilities of a closer relationship in order to create a more efficient, effective and influential voice for county conservation interests.

WLWCA Board of Directors meetings are open to everyone. We are asking attendees to RSVP right away to ensure that there is room for all interested parties. Email [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) to RSVP.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

**Join Us at Conservation Observance Day on June 25**

Peter and Suzie Arnold, the 2009 Conservation Farmers of the Year, are hosting this year's celebration at their 170+ cow grazing-based dairy farm in Edgar, Marathon County. Join conservationists from around the state for lunch, speaker presentations, exhibits and farm tours. The event takes place from 11 am to 3 pm, and a flyer can be found on our Web site [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org) under "What's Going On" and is being sent electronically to those who receive the Email version of *Thursday Note*. Scheduled speakers include USDA NRCS State Conservationist Pat Leavenworth, DNR Secretary Matthew Frank, FSA State Executive Director Brad Pfaff, UW Cooperative Extension Dean Richard Klemme, and Mike Krutza of the DATCP Board. We hope to see you there!

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

**Association Dues**

New dues notices will be in the mail soon. As we have forewarned, there is an increase in dues coming. We are trying to fill the budget gap left by the loss of state contracts and grants. While the special assessment fixed the problem for 2010, we are still faced with the same problem for 2011. We continue to search for new sources of funding and hope to secure some to offset the burden on the counties. We appreciate your understanding on this matter, and we realize the difficulty this presents to counties in this time of revenue shortfalls.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

**NACD CEO Eisenberg Brings New Vision**

At a recent NACD meeting, I had the opportunity to speak to Jeff Eisenberg, the new CEO at NACD. Jeff comes to NACD from the Public Lands Council and previously had worked for the Klamath Water Users Association and The Nature Conservancy. He is from Minnesota and earned his JD from University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison.

Jeff's priority as the new head of NACD is to bring new money to the districts, or county departments, in our case. In addition to lobbying on the federal budget for agency funding, Jeff is employing a new strategy to find funding for conservation work. He is actively seeking funds from major foundations that show an interest in supporting meaningful conservation work. The notion is to fund those projects that aren't funded by existing programs. NACD is interested in those projects that enhance or add value to current programs, but completely separate projects are welcome, too. Jeff wants to bundle enough of these programs together so they will be of interest to the larger foundations. He is in a position to look at project ideas across regions and major watersheds and piece together large, multi-state, multi-million dollar programs, which can then be pitched to the foundations.

What he needs now is an overview of "shovel ready" projects that can be included in his proposals. I would like to compile a list or a database of your projects for Jeff. If you have a project that you would like to do but cannot find a source of funding, submit it to WLWCA for the Wisconsin list. If it matches what the foundations are interested in funding it can be included with an NACD proposal. Keep in mind that the Great Lakes Region is particularly popular with foundations right now. I expect that water quality issues in the Gulf will make the Mississippi River watershed an important conservation concern as well.

To submit your project, please write a brief description of what you would like to do, where you would like to do it, how it would achieve a conservation goal, and the amount of money it would take to get it done. Then send that to me at [julian@wlwca.org](mailto:julian@wlwca.org) and I'll compile the list for presentation to Jeff.

In times of tight government budgets it seems to be a good time to engage private foundations in the good conservation work that we do. Let's help Jeff Eisenberg succeed in getting us more funding.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

**No LCC Training Sessions Scheduled for Spring 2010**

Through DATCP's support, WLWCA has traditionally coordinated and held land conservation committee training sessions throughout the state in spring of election years. This year funding for 2010 training was cut from the state allocation plan. We have reapplied and hope to receive funds for training in 2011. Please consider contacting Richard Castelnovo at DATCP at (608) 224-4608 or [Richard.Castelnovo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Richard.Castelnovo@wisconsin.gov) to voice your support for this worthwhile training. Note that in lieu of the spring sessions, WLWCA plans to hold an abbreviated training at our annual conference in December at Wisconsin Dells. Additional details will be provided later this summer.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

**2010 WLWCA Annual Conference December 9-10 at Chula Vista Resort Now Seeking Volunteers**

WLWCA is currently seeking an auction coordinator, spouse tour leader, auction assistants, AV assistants, registration assistants, moderators, raffle ticket sellers, and folks interested in serving on the planning committee for the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference. Since the WLWCA Board of Directors has heeded membership requests to keep the annual conference in a centralized location, we are now opening up volunteer opportunities to the entire membership, as opposed to relying on the conference's regional areas for advice and help. Volunteers are eligible for various discounts to attend the WLWCA Annual Conference and must complete a volunteer form to sign up. We are hoping to have a planning committee established by **June 18** so we may schedule two conference calls to determine the conference sessions.

The volunteer sign-up form has been sent electronically to the LCD list serve and the WALCE list serve. It has also been sent with this *Thursday Note* via Email. If you have not seen the volunteer form and would like to lend a hand, visit our Web site [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org) to download the form, or Email [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) to request a copy.

Thank you for supporting the WLWCA Annual Conference! We'll see you in Wisconsin Dells!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

**WLWCA Youth & Education Raffle**

The WLWCA Youth & Education programs such as Wisconsin Envirothon and the State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contests are **completely funded by outside resources** such as private donations, volunteerism and the WLWCA Annual Conference Silent Auction and Raffle. It is through the support of the conservation community and statewide businesses alone that these important programs exist to help WLWCA help you conserve and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources by educating tomorrow's conservation stewards.

To help with our fundraising efforts, WLWCA is currently seeking two to three raffle items for the 2010 WLWCA Youth Education Raffle December 9-10 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. If you know a company that is interested in donating a high value raffle item, or if you are connected with an organization that would be willing to donate funds for raffle items, please contact Kirsten at the WLWCA office or [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) by **October 14** to find out how to donate and discuss how to recognize the company or organization for their generosity.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

**SOC Update**

The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) work team that is revising the NRCS 634 Waste Transfer technical standard is nearly finished responding to the Broad Review comments received on the team's draft standard. At this point, because of significant changes made to the draft standard during meetings this spring, the work team intends to solicit a second round of input from those who submitted Broad Review comments. Going forward, the work team will continue to meet throughout the summer to address additional comments and finalize the revised standard.

The SOC work team that has been developing a new Infiltration Trench technical standard for the Dept. of Commerce recently completed its final changes to the new practice standard for stormwater management. A final issue the work team grappled with related to the applicability of Class V injection well registration requirements to certain infiltration trenches. The next step is to deliver the completed technical standard to the custodian agency for review and acceptance.

A wide variety of volunteers have so far expressed interest in serving on a new SOC work team to revise the Feed Storage Leachate and Runoff Control provisions of the Wisconsin NRCS 629 Waste Treatment technical standard. The work team will be charged with modifying the existing standard and draft companion document to reflect lessons learned since the feed storage leachate provisions were finalized in 2008. Currently, SOC is selecting the team leader and other members for the work team, which is expected to convene in early summer and finish revising the standard by March 2011.

~Kevin Hogan, SOC Coordinator



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## Calendar of Events

<b>SOC Meeting, Madison</b>	<b>Jun 11</b>
<b>WC Area Meeting &amp; Summer Tour, Eau Claire</b>	<b>Jun 17</b>
<b>Western Area Meeting, La Crosse</b>	<b>Jun 17</b>
<b>NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference, Drummond</b>	<b>Jun 18</b>
<b>WLWCA Conservation Camp, Bruce</b>	<b>Jun 22-25</b>
<b>WLWCA/WALCE Board Meeting, Marshfield</b>	<b>Jun 24</b>
<b>Sand Lake Conservation Camp, Marinette</b>	<b>June 24-26</b>
<b>Conservation Observance Day, Edgar</b>	<b>Jun 25</b>
<b>WAAE Conference, Madison</b>	<b>Jun 28-Jul 1</b>
<b>Canon Envirothon, Fresno, CA</b>	<b>Aug 1-6</b>
<b>LWCB Meeting, Madison</b>	<b>Aug 3</b>
<b>WLWCA Board Meeting &amp; Officer Elections, Stevens Point</b>	<b>Aug 18</b>

*For more information, visit [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org) and click on  
"What's Going On?"*

### WLWCA Board

**Allen Carothers, President**  
Buffalo County  
**Thomas Rudolph, Vice President**  
Oneida County  
**David Hammer, Sec'y/Treasurer**  
Lafayette County  
**Jacob Van Dixhorn**  
Sheboygan County  
**Patrick Laughrin**  
Calumet County  
**Dorothy Burwell**  
Walworth County  
**Herbert Cornell**  
Vernon County  
**Kay McKenzie**  
Douglas County

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**Chris Schlutt**  
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