



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 14, Issue 7

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Announcing the 58th WLWCA Annual Conference, Registration Now Available

The 2011 WLWCA Annual Conference is scheduled December 8-9 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Registration is now available in a PDF fillable format at www.wlwca.org/conference.html and hard copies are being distributed to those who subscribe via US Mail to *Thursday Note*.

WLWCA welcomes Eric Eckl, founder of Water Words That Work, LLC, to the conference on Thursday, December 8 to present "The World Outside: What They Say About Why Your Work Matters." The lunch session will feature conservation insights from social scientists and market researchers, and attendees will learn what polls, surveys, focus groups, and other research tools reveal about the public's attitudes towards nature protection, pollution control, and professions in the field. Eric will then follow-up his lunch presentation with a breakout session that trains attendees to hone conservation messaging skills. Eric has more than 15 years experience planning and carrying out issue advocacy, fundraising, and behavior change campaigns and holds seats on the editorial committee for the Center for Watershed Protection and the board of directors for the Green Media Toolshed.

In addition to Eric's sessions, the 58th WLWCA event hosts Don Reiter from the Menomonie Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (invited), who will share the history of lake sturgeon management. Join us for a wide range of learning opportunities regarding the proposed WLWCA-WALCE merger, invasive species, the Working Lands Initiative, an urban bioswale project, sandstone mining and reclamations, manure management, county owned dams, LCC training for new supervisors, and local wetlands, as well as an opportunity to see the documentary film *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*.

Special thanks to Greg Cleereman, Kelly Jacobs, Steve Oberle, Penny Pohle, and Carolyn Scholl for serving on our conference planning committee. WLWCA is still seeking AV assistants and moderators for the conference. All volunteers receive conference discounts. Use the form found at www.wlwca.org/conference.html to apply for a volunteer position.

Conference attendees are asked to register with the WLWCA office by Friday, November 4 using the registration form supplied. Extra fees apply to registrations Emailed, postmarked, or faxed after that time. Call Chula Vista Resort at 855-539-7628 and use booking ID 19278 by November 7 to guarantee you receive the state rate for your hotel room. Questions? Contact Kirsten at the WLWCA office or Email kirsten@wlwca.org.

We look forward to seeing you this December in Wisconsin Dells!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Ad Hoc Committee on Proposed Merger

The WLWCA-WALCE Ad Hoc Merger Committee has been meeting on a regular basis and is in the middle of a broad outreach effort regarding draft bylaws being written for a merged association. Every effort is being made to keep members of both organizations up to date with the proceedings and everyone's input is encouraged for this very important matter. Another webinar has been planned for October 18 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Ad Hoc Committee members will present the work completed to-date and entertain questions. More details are to follow including directions for participating in the webinar in a upcoming special edition of the *Thursday Note* featuring the proposed merger.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Conservation Award Nominations

The due dates for conservation awards are fast approaching.

Conservation Farmer of the Year nominations are due **October 21**. Please remember to recognize the good work that your local farmers are doing, and remember that **the county in which the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award winner is located gets next year's WLWCA membership dues waived**. The winner is recognized at the awards ceremony during our annual conference, and a special recognition day will be held next June at or near the winning farm. Please see www.wlwca.org/PDFs/aboutus/2011ConsFarmAward.pdf for more details.

WLWCA also gives an award annually to an Outstanding Supervisor, the deadline for which is also **October 21**. If you know an LCC Supervisor who has shown leadership and made an outstanding contribution to conservation to their LCC, area association, WLWCA or NACD, please submit an application so that we can recognize his or her valuable work. The winner of the Outstanding Supervisor award will also be recognized at our annual conference. For more details please see www.wlwca.org/PDFs/aboutus/2011SupervisorAwd.pdf

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

2011 Resolutions and Proxy Voting

Resolutions must be received by WLWCA by **October 28** for discussion at the November WLWCA Board meeting. Resolutions received after that date may be brought to the floor during the annual meeting with a 2/3 vote. Along with the resolution, there **must be a resolution attachment** stating the contact person and conference speaker as well as any additional information that may be helpful in understanding the resolution. This form is available at www.wlwca.org/conference.html. Resolutions will be posted on the WLWCA Web site as they are received.

Please also remember that if your LCC Chair will not be attending the annual business meeting on December 9, a 2011 Proxy Voting Form must be completed prior to the meeting for a member county to vote. This form is also available via the link to our conference page.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

WLWCA's State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest Entry Deadline for Completion October 28, Seeking Volunteers for State Competition

On November 5, WLWCA will host the 54th Annual State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest at the Best Western Grand Seasons Hotel in Waupaca. WLWCA is now requesting volunteers to judge and moderate the speaking contest categories as well as judge the posters. Hotel rooms for volunteering will be covered on Friday, November 4 at single room rates for those interested in participating but wish to travel overnight. The list below contains reminders to help your area association successfully enter students in the state competition.

- For both the poster and the speaking contest, the entry forms at www.wlwca.org/posterspeakingcontest.html are required for entry at the state level. **The entry forms REQUIRE a PARENTAL SIGNATURE**. Parental signatures protect your county, area, and our state competition by assuring that the student has permission to enter the contest and that we have permission to use their names and artwork. Do not forget to put your county information on the forms so we easily know who to contact if we have questions about your entry.
- **The poster contest form must be affixed to the back of the posters.**
- **Posters must be packaged flat.** Do not send posters to WLWCA in a poster tube. WLWCA is not responsible for damage to posters due to shipping.
- **All state qualifying speakers and all posters must be pre-registered for the November 5 event. WLWCA DOES NOT ACCEPT POSTERS AND NON-REGISTERED SPEAKERS ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.**
- State qualifying posters with registrations and a typed list of state entries listing the artist, county and division are

due to the WLWCA office postmarked by **October 29** or hand delivered by November 1. WLWCA Executive Director Julian Zelazny will be in attendance at the Lake Winnebago, West Central, Northwestern, and North Central fall area meetings and will be happy to collect your state poster entries there.

- State qualifying speaking contest entries must have their signed registration forms including their list of guests who will be in attendance at the November 5 event to the WLWCA office emailed or faxed no later than **October 31**.

WLWCA is excited to see the winning posters and speakers from this year's contests. Questions about the state competitions or volunteering on November 5 can be directed to Kirsten at the WLWCA office via phone or Email kirsten@wlwca.org. Questions about the area and county competitions may be better answered by your local coordinators as each county and area handles entries and local deadlines slightly differently.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Drainage District Restructuring

As you may have seen from recent Email activity, WLWCA and the Wisconsin Counties Association have been asked to weigh-in on the notion of restructuring the supervision of drainage districts. Assembly legislators are considering changing the authority over drainage districts from the courts to the LCCs. The current system has been in place since the 1800s where the only entity that had a real statewide presence was the judicial system. However, today the responsibility for the drainage districts is an oddity in the portfolio of the circuit courts. A bill is being prepared that would change this responsibility, and the first idea they wish to present is for the LCCs to take over this task.

WLWCA and WCA are committed to participating in this process. If you have an opinion or idea regarding this change, please contact Julian at the WLWCA office or via julian@wlwca.org.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Standards Oversight Council Update

The draft NRCS standard 313, Waste Storage Facility, was available for broad review and open for comments until **September 9**. The team's next meeting date is September 22 in Stevens Point, where they will consider public comments. Future meetings are also scheduled for October 12, November 16 and December 14 to finalize this standard.

The NRCS 629 Waste Treatment standard team is in the process of responding to initial review comments. Overall, the team has found the comments to be pertinent, and in most cases response to the comments has included revisions to the draft standard. The team recently met via live meeting on August 18 and face-to-face on August 23. In September, the team expects to have one live meeting and one face-to-face meeting at the end of the month.

The NRCS 634 standard Waste Transfer team meetings and work is currently on hold, awaiting the finalization of NRCS standard 313. The next Standards Oversight Council meeting is scheduled for September 21. Additionally, the position announcement for a new SOC Coordinator will be distributed this fall.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator



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Calendar of Events

Advanced Animal Waste Storage Webinar	Sept 16
Beginning Aquaculture Workshop, Juneau	Sept 17
Windbreaks and Buffers Course, Hancock	Sept 19
Agriculture Enterprise Area Forum, WI Dells	Sept 27
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Stevens Point	Sept 29
Public Records & Open Meetings Seminar, Pewaukee	Oct 3
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Oct 4
Advanced Animal Waste Storage Training, Barron	Oct 4
Canon Envirothon Fall BOD Meeting, Memphis, TN	Oct 8-9
Public Records & Open Meetings Seminar, Madison	Oct 10
Advanced Animal Waste Storage Training, Shawano	Oct 11
Facilitating Pasture walks & Farmer Discussion Groups, Lodi	Oct 11
SWCS Fall Tour, New Holstein	Oct 13
LM Area Fall Meeting, Luxemburg	Oct 14
WC Area Fall Meeting, Eau Claire	Oct 19
WLWCA-WALCE Merger Webinar	Oct 18
Public Records & Open Meetings Webinar	Oct 20
LW Area Fall Meeting, Fond du Lac	Oct 21
Conservation Farmer of the Year/Outstanding Supervisor Nominations DUE	Oct 21
S Area Fall Meeting, Verona	Oct 27
NC Area Fall Meeting, Wausau	Oct 27
NW Area Fall Meeting, Hayward	Oct 28
Resolutions DUE and Poster & Speaking Area Contests Concluded	Oct 28

For more information, visit www.wlwca.org/eventscalendar.html

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