



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 13, Issue 9

Thursday, November 11, 2010

LWCB Ballot and Candidate Bios Information

The following supervisors have been nominated to serve on the Land and Water Conservation Board: David Hammer, Lafayette County; Patrick Laughrin, Calumet County; Tom Rudolph, Oneida County; and Charles "Chuck" Wagner, Kewaunee County.

WLWCA will be emailing the ballot and the candidate biographies out to each county conservationist to share with their department and committee this week. This information can also be found on www.wlwca.org via a link from our conference page. Each county chair or designee can vote once. Completed ballots being mailed must be received at WLWCA by Friday, December 3. Ballots will be accepted at the conference until 6 pm on Thursday, December 9. Winners will be announced during Friday's business meeting.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Resolutions for the WLWCA Annual Meeting

This year the Area Associations sent four resolutions to the WLWCA board for their evaluation and for inclusion at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. The resolutions pertain to the following issues.

- **Resolution #1: Requesting Elimination of the Potential for Asian Carp to Spread Throughout the Great Lakes and Surrounding Watersheds.** This resolution asks for the Attorney General of Wisconsin to pursue legal remedies to stop the carp. It also urges the governor to persuade the President and Congress to order the closure of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The WLWCA Board of Directors recommended adoption of this resolution.
- **Resolution #2: Supporting Deer Management and Retention of Nine Day Deer Hunting Season.** This resolution expresses concern about the low deer herd population in the North Central and North East areas of Wisconsin. It also supports the retention of the nine day deer hunting season. The WLWCA Board of Directors recommended adoption of this resolution.
- **Resolution #3: Resolution Supporting Legislation to Require Comprehensive Well Water Testing Prior to Real Estate Transfers.** This resolution asks the Wisconsin legislature for changes to current law to require comprehensive well water testing prior to real estate transfer of property where the well is located. It also specifies the contaminants to be tested for. The WLWCA Board of Directors recommended adoption of this resolution.
- **Resolution #4: Reducing/Limiting the Number of WLWCA Attendees to the NACD National Conference.** This resolution seeks to set a policy of limiting to two the number of people sent from WLWCA to the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting. The WLWCA Board of Directors did not recommend adoption of this resolution.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

2010 Conservation Farmer of the Year Announced!

WLWCA is pleased to announce that the 2010 Conservation Farmer of the Year award goes to Fountain Prairie Farms (John and Dorothy Priske) from Columbia County. Fountain Prairie Farms produces organic, pasture-raised highland beef which they sell to local high-end and specialty markets. They also operate a bed and breakfast on the farm that caters to the emerging agri-tourism market in Wisconsin.

The Priskes purchased their 280-acre farm in 1986 and worked through the ups and downs of growing corn and soybeans in traditional ways, along with raising beef, hogs and other specialty crops. They felt that there had to be a better way. They began a multi-year transition that has led them to now operating a 300 head herd of Scottish Highlanders raised on well managed pastures instead of continuing to grow corn and soybeans. They have restored both a 61-acre prairie wetland that was drained for cultivation and 28 acres of tall grass prairie, and they have adopted a wide range of conservation practices. The Priskes have taken the farm from having a questionable soil loss status in 1992 to a situation today in which they are building organic matter and have all but reduced soil loss from the farm. A 50 kilowatt windmill now generates electricity on the farm.

Fountain Prairie Farms not only protects the resources, but provides the Priskes the opportunity to provide high value locally grown food. They also open the farm for hosting pasture walks and provide educational meetings for many different organizations. WLWCA congratulates Fountain Prairie Farms for their conservation accomplishments and their commitment not only for today, but well into the future.

At the time of this writing, judging for the Outstanding Supervisor award had not been completed. Stay tuned for the results. Award winners will be honored at our dinner banquet on December 9 in Wisconsin Dells.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

2010 State Conservation Poster & Speaking Contest Held

The 53rd annual State Conservation Poster and Speaking Contests were held in Stevens Point on Saturday, November 6. The winning speaker from each division has been invited to present their award-winning speech at our annual conference during the Thursday

evening banquet. Awards for the poster contest winners, as well as the posters were mailed on Tuesday, November 9 via US Mail. First place winning posters have already been submitted to the NACD Poster Contest. Posters submitted to the NACD Poster Contest will not be returned until mid-February 2011, following the NACD Annual Meeting. Certificates and plaques for first place winning posters have already been mailed to their corresponding counties. Thank you to all of the counties and areas who support this program.

SPEAKING CONTEST:

- **Elementary Division:** First place - Adileen Sii, Wood County; Second place - Clare Nate, Columbia County; Third place - Andrew Brevick, Buffalo County.
- **Junior Division:** First place - Benjamin Metzger, Oneida County; Second place - Casey Fremstad, Crawford County; Third place - Emmett Wiegel, Columbia County.
- **Senior Division:** First place - Leah Wickersham, Marquette County; Second place - Cassandra Hoger, Oneida County; Third place - Lily Howder, Eau Claire County.

POSTER CONTEST:

- **Primary Division:** First place - Cael Steinmetz, Oneida County; Second place - Anna Ganje, Polk County; Third place - Shawna Stibb, Green Lake County.
- **Elementary Division:** First place - Rebekah Stuebs, Portage County; Second place - Eric Breuer, Grant County; Third place - Sydney Dunkes, Marinette County.
- **Middle Division:** First place - Savannah Soltis, Washburn County; Second place - Makenzie Hansen, Wood County; Third place - Desmond DeGroot, Outagamie County.
- **Junior Division:** First Place - Caitlin Fielding, Washburn County; Second place - Kyle Radtke, Vilas County; Third place - Ryan Lemmers, Outagamie County.
- **Senior Division:** First place - Shannon Vassar, Florence County; Second place - Patrick Zehm, Washburn County; Third place - Taylor Pickel, Grant County.
- **Special Needs Junior Division:** First place - Stefan Mahan, Crawford County; Second place - Noel Strait, Richland County.
- **Special Needs Senior Division:** First place - Derek Simpson, Outagamie County; Second place - Sarah Wegner, Richland County; Third place - Christian Monson, Washburn County.

Other counties represented in the two contests were Ashland, Barron, Burnett, Eau Claire, Iron, Pepin, Racine, Washington, Waupaca, and Waushara. Special thanks to Tracy Arnold (Wood), Patty Benedict (Portage), Dorothy Burwell (Walworth), Russ Hagen (Crawford), Kathryn McKenzie (Douglas), James Ross (Pierce), Tom Rudolph (Oneida), Tami Schraufnagel (Eau Claire), Charles Wagner (Kewaunee), and Margie Yadro (Florence) for volunteering to judge and moderate the two contests.

The 2011 WLWCA/NACD Poster Contest theme is "Forests for People! More than You Can Imagine!" Until more details become available, you can visit http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/2011/forestry_2011.html to find out more. Stay tuned to www.wlwca.org for updates regarding the 2011 state contest events.

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

2010 WLWCA Annual Conference Deadlines, and Business Reminders

Registration materials for the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference are available online at www.wlwca.org. The conference is YOUR opportunity to take a stake in statewide conservation issues. Regular registration has ended, but you can still register for an additional \$10 through December 6. Here's a list of deadlines ahead of the conference to help you prepare:

- **Friday, December 3:** Deadline for LCC Chairs to submit signed WLWCA Business Meeting proxy forms to WLWCA by US Mail.
- **Friday, December 3:** Deadline for LCC Chairs to submit completed ballots for LWCB candidates to WLWCA by US Mail.
- **Monday, December 6:** Deadline for LCC Chairs to Email or fax signed WLWCA Business Meeting proxy forms to WLWCA at kirsten@wlwca.org or 608-441-2676.
- **Monday, December 6:** Last day to submit WLWCA Conference Registrations via Email, Fax or US Mail to the WLWCA office. Attendees may still bring registrations directly to the conference and register for an additional \$15 fee.
- **Thursday, December 9, 11:00am:** Bring your tax-deductible Youth Education Silent Auction donations to Chula Vista Resort.
- **Thursday, December 9, 6:00pm:** Deadline for LCC Chairs to vote at the WLWCA Annual Conference for LWCB candidates.
- **Friday, December 10, 9:15am:** Deadline for LCC Chairs to submit signed WLWCA Business Meeting proxy forms by fax to 608-254-7653 at Julian Zelazny's attention or Email to julian@wlwca.org.

The 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference is YOUR conference and we need YOUR help to make it happen! Volunteer positions are still available for Raffle Ticket Sales. All volunteers receive a conference registration discount. You can download the volunteer registration form at www.wlwca.org. Don't miss this great opportunity to save money and show YOUR support for WLWCA! We look forward to seeing you in Wisconsin Dells!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Merger Update

The proposed merger talks are set to begin. After approving a set of guidelines and principles, both boards of directors have appointed five members to populate an ad-hoc committee on the proposed merger. All ten members will be polled soon to determine when they would be able to set the first meeting date. The first meeting will serve as a jumping off point for the committee, where they will determine such logistical things as a meeting schedule, whether they will meet in person or via teleconference, who will chair the committee, and who they wish to select as the facilitator for the process.

All parties involved have pledged to make this an open and transparent process. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Please contact Julian Zelazny at the WLWCA office or via julian@wlwca.org if you have opinions about the merger that you would like to share.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Fall Area Meetings Attended

In recent years I have made a point of attending as many of the Spring and Fall area meetings as I can. This year is no different as I visited five of the six areas that held Fall meetings. I was unable to personally attend the Southern Area meeting since it conflicted with the North Central Area meeting, and I was already on the road. Kirsten Moore represented WLWCA at the Southern Area meeting.

Beginning in October, I visited Sturgeon Bay, in Door County, for the Lake Michigan Area meeting. Two weeks later I attended the Lake Winnebago Area Association meeting in Green Lake County. The following week was my "traveling road show", where I attended three meetings in three days; West Central Area, North Central Area and finally the Northwestern Area.

Discussions and presentations at the areas varied, but a consistent topic of conversation was the proposed WLWCA/WALCE merger. This idea has generated a lot of interest, mostly in the form of questions, and so the ad hoc committee on the proposed merger will have their work cut out for them.

Budgets were also a hot topic of conversation with most supervisors saying that cuts were necessary in their county budgets. Protecting conservation department budgets is becoming increasingly difficult, and members were looking for creative ways to ride out the economic downturn.

I look forward to the Spring meetings in 2011.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Legislative Update

Now that the 2010 elections are behind us, the picture of the political landscape in which we bring forth our issues is beginning to form. A new era has been ushered in with a change in political control in the governor's office, state senate and assembly. With a change in party comes a change in leadership and committee chairs, and so our lobbying strategy will also change.

In the next session we will be pursuing the full funding of the statewide staffing allocation grant, with, we hope, a viable funding source. We will also be working on the karst issue again.

In the next few days the coalition of conservation groups organized by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters will be selecting the four statewide conservation priorities that the entire coalition will be supporting in the upcoming biennial legislature. We will be keeping you informed as this develops. Stay tuned.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

SOC Update

A final, new Infiltration Trench technical standard has been delivered to the custodian agency, the Dept. of Commerce. The leader of the Standards Oversight Council (SOC) work team that developed the new stormwater management practice emphasized, "the standard that was created will be very useful to industry. Consensus building takes time and it seems like this is a standard that the team members largely agreed and can live with." The new standard establishes criteria for infiltration trenches that will collect and store runoff until it can infiltrate into the subsurface soil. The standard includes criteria for site selection, trench design, construction, and operation and maintenance.

The 1004 Bioretention for Infiltration technical standard has been revised and the updated version will soon be posted on the runoff management section of DNR's website. The original standard was finalized in 2004 by a SOC work team. In June 2009, DNR and SOC solicited comments on proposed revisions to the standard's criteria for the engineered soil mixture. The original standard allowed use of a mixture of 40% sand, 30%-40% compost, and 20%-30% native topsoil, but field evidence indicated this engineered soil mixture may be the cause of improper infiltration rates in some cases. After evaluating comments received, DNR removed native topsoil from the engineered soil mix, and increased the sand component to 70%-85%. Also, DNR removed the requirement to use only silica sand. Thus, sand consisting of dolomite or calcium carbonate may also be used.

~Kevin Hogan, SOC Coordinator



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Calendar of Events

WI High School Conference on the Environment, Stevens Point	Nov 17
UWEX Intro To Organic Systems Class, Altoona	Dec 2
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Dec 7
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Wisconsin Dells	Dec 9
WLWCA Annual Conference & Silent Auction, Wisconsin Dells	Dec 9-10
WLWCA Business Meeting, Wisconsin Dells	Dec 10
Canon Envirothon Winter Meeting, Nashville	Jan 29-30
NACD Annual Meeting, Nashville	Jan 30-Feb 2

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

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Standards Oversight Council Coordinator

Chris Schlutt

Program Coordinator

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