

The Wetland Study Council: A Brief Guide for Legislators

2025-26 Legislative Session

About the Council

The Wetland Study Council (WSC) was created in 2017 Act 183. The WSC was created to research and provide recommendations on a broad range of wetland topics, including wetland permitting and mitigation, analysis of practical alternatives to wetland fills, storm water ponds, drainage ditch regulations, and wetland delineations. The WSC may address other wetland topics at its discretion. Recommendations may include statutory, administrative, policy or communication improvements. See Wisconsin Statute 15.347(22) for more information about the council.

The Council is a resource for policymakers

The WSC is designed to be a multi-perspective resource for policymakers and encourages the consultation with and use of the broad range of expertise offered by WSC stakeholders in the crafting of thoughtful, common-sense wetland policies.

To visit the Wetland Study Council webpage which provides information on members, meetings and topics, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov> and search "Wetland Study Council."

WSC members include those offering diverse perspectives in municipal, conservation, agricultural, development, and other interests affecting wetlands.

There are many ways to interact with the Council

- Attend a meeting – WSC Meetings are open to the public and generally available to attend via Zoom or in-person. The [DNR Public Meetings Calendar](#) lists upcoming WSC meetings, which are generally held on the second Thursday of every other month starting in January.
- Monitor WSC legislative recommendations – Visit the WSC webpage to review legislative recommendations endorsed by the WSC.
- Bring an issue for Council review – Tap into the diverse perspectives offered by WSC members on wetland related issues. The WSC may add the topic to a meeting agenda, discuss, research, and provide a summary and/or recommendation on the issue.

Questions about Council involvement in legislation

Does WSC take positions on legislation? The WSC does not take formal positions on legislation or administrative rules but may provide comments and recommendations on proposals.

Does the WSC testify or register on proposed legislation at legislative hearings? The WSC does not testify at legislative public hearings, but individual WSC members may register or testify on proposed legislation in representation of their own association or firm.

To contact the Wetland Study Council

The DNR offers administrative support to the Wetland Study Council. To contact the council, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov> and search "Wetland Study Council." Contact information is at the bottom of the page.

Wetland Study Council Members

Tim Andryk, Ducks Unlimited, Policy Staff

On behalf of a statewide organization with waterfowl interests

Ben Callan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Waterways Program Director

DNR biologist or hydrologist and wetland expert, appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources

Tracy Hames, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Executive Director

On behalf of a statewide land conservation group with a specific interest in wetlands

Stacy Jepson, Cedar Corporation, Environmental Projects Manager

Representing member who is a statewide wetland delineator

Paul Kent, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, Attorney

On behalf of a statewide organization representing municipal interests

Jeffrey Kraemer, The Water Council, Vice President

On behalf of a statewide organization representing the business community

Thomas Larson, Wisconsin Realtors Association, CEO and President

On behalf of a statewide organization representing real estate and development interests

Carol Richardson, Stantec, Senior Environmental Project Manager

Representing member who is a statewide wetland consultant

Jennifer Schmitz, Wisconsin Farmers Union, District 4 Director

On behalf of a statewide organization representing rural and agricultural interests

