

Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday November 13, 2025 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Teams and in-person

<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Notes/Follow-up</u>
Call to Order (10:01)	WSC Attendees: - Tracy Hames (TH) - Jeff Kraemer (JK) - Tim Andryk (TA) - Jane Landretti (JL) - Toni Herkert (TO) - Ben Callan, DNR (BC) - Carol Richardson (CR) via Teams - Jen Schmitz (JS) via Teams Other participants: - Tom Nedland (TN) - Allissa Reynolds (AR) - Kara Brooks (KB) - Allison Willman (AW) - Jennifer Western Hauser (JWH)
Public Comment	None
Agenda Approval	Decision: Approved (JK, TA)
Board Minutes Approval	Decision: Approved (TA, TO)
Update	New Committee Members • Jane Landretti replacing Tom Larson as Representative for Real Estate and Development Interests • Toni Herkert replacing Paul Kent as Representative for Municipal Interests
Legislative Update	Assured Delineator Bill (TN and KB) • Expected final language for bill addressed the educational requirement by scaling the educational degree and work experience. • KB will ask legislative office to share final language with WSC per TA request • TO- LWM signed off on it • JK- support from many groups

Act 183 Committee Update	• AW - History of subcommittee and its work to develop report summarizing impacts of Act 183. Received comments from JK and now expanding outreach about program via survey to users. Expect this to inform eventual recommendations. • AW - Showed 10 survey questions that would go to ~200 applicants/agents who have utilized the program. • CR - Recommendations haven't been formed - just rough drafts in committee. • TH - Once final, recommendations come to the WSC for action. • AW - Per WSC request, TN will send questions to WSC with deadline for comments/ suggestions since DNR Comms is in final review of questions. • CR/TA - Survey will be used to inform recommendations to improve program and process. Compiling results and researching the issues will be next steps. • Multiple - Appreciate JK comments and work on survey. • AW - FYI DNR has updated Exemption Application Checklist on website.
Conservation Practices on agricultural lands	• AR- Progress report update • AR/ JK/ TA- Draft Matrix discussion • AR- Legal opinion summary • TA- Can we bring attorney into next meeting to discuss? • JL- Is the Council or the DNR the client? DNR • TA- 300.65- Ability to adjust review process for General Permits, Request to have legal interpretation of 300.65 • JK- Add bullet point for 300.65 under legal interpretation, priority #7. • Not all wetland and water resources are regulated, what are options for not federally regulated. • TN—What's the question of legal team- council to formulate questions. • JK- What opportunities are there to fit project in the exemption? • - Committee or council action? • BC- let's give the committee deference to continue • AR/JK/TA What's the continued Committee focus— recommendations or full implementation? WSC direction sought. • BC- recommendations come from the council, • TH-Council can move recommendations forward individually, • BC- Does the council need to define the charge. • TH- Council expects this committee to go on awhile. • First project -the 401 assumption- took 1.5 years. • Purpose was to bring broad array of viewpoints to tackle the tough issues.

Jurisdiction Topic	• TN - See presentation slides Discussion/questions related to: • Agricultural use/purpose for activities in artificial ag drainage ditches (I.e., Is “ditch fill” an agricultural purpose since it can be important for ag?) • Stream history factor in ag drainage ditch settings • Connection to other navigable waters factor • Examples re: ditch dug for agricultural purpose but of course drains to a navigable water • TN - Even if navigable, activities may be allowed through a General Permit. (Fairly common) WRGP and HRGP are permit mechanisms. JK - Riparian rights can be an issue if determined navigable and subject to Ch.30. • Multiple: Follow up needed on this topic to work through examples.
Meeting schedule	• DNR relocation will occur sometime late in 2026 • Public meeting does not have to be public facility • Need to be able to accommodate public attendees • Group agreed to keep current meeting schedule - second Thursday of odd months, 10-12 am • Next meeting Jan 8
Training	• Ethics • Public Records • Completed online via Teams (AR facilitated & documented)
Adjournment (12:11)	• JK, BC