

Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 18th, 2021 | 9:00am - 11:00am | Zoom

<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Notes/Follow-up</u>
Call to Order	WSC Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tracy Hames- Mandy Minks- Tom Larson- Stacy Jepson- Paul Kent- Carol McCoy- Tim Andryk Other participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tom Pearce- Jenny Croonborg-Murphy- Jennifer Western Hauser- James Brodzeller- Rebecca Graser- Tom Nedland- Kara Brooks- Josh Brown
Public Comment	No public comments received
Agenda Approval	Decision: Agenda approved
Board Minutes Approval	Decision: Minutes approved
DNR 404 Assumption Feasibility Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2017 Act 183 allowed 404 Assumption, listed it as an issue under the Wetland Study Council creation statute• Funding the preparation, application, and implementation of Assumption is a major barrier• Federal uncertainties are a barrier, including waters of the United States and the processes for Endangered Species Act review and the Assumption application.• State wetland exemptions and narrowing of practicable alternatives analysis, as well as cranberry and mining laws are or appear to be applied less stringently than federal standards.• Under Assumption, DNR would have several additional work tasks requiring significant extra staff capacity. Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DNR to submit final report by 12/31/21, will share with Council members.

<p>DNR complaint intake survey walkthrough</p>	<p>Presentation summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint intake purpose is for potential violations of waterway and wetland laws (unauthorized activities) • All complaints are now filed through DNR online portal as of 9/27/2021. • New complaint intake system prioritizes jurisdictional violations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-jurisdictional cases are closed (total numbers of these have dropped) ○ Threats to health and safety immediately assigned to a water management specialist or dam engineer if involving a dam • Online survey requires full information for the location, description, and contact information • Incomplete submittals are responded to with an email requesting a new submittal with complete information
<p>Wetland Identification and Delineation Committee report:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is legislative support for a draft bill on the DNR assured delineator program • DNR seeking review and comment on the bill • Annual certification fee to be used for DNR staff coordination of the assured delineator program <p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft bill and send comments to Mandy by 12/10
<p>Integrated Watershed Management Committee report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared summary of approaches to integrating wetland restoration incentives and floodplain and stormwater needs for local governments • Committee looking at specific pilot project opportunities • Intend to solidify this approach through Council recommendations <p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
<p>Wetlands Data Dashboard Committee report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dashboard web page drafted, DNR interested in Council feedback on organization and user experience • DNR planning to add features after page is published, for example county by county numbers on the maps of impacts and restoration • Reconsider color scheme for restored acres maps so that it does not clash with the impacted acres map • Add nuance to the total acres of wetlands restored since the 1990s – improvements in mapping, mitigation, etc. • DNR could consider adding narrative on number of projects proposed that are withdrawn • DNR looking at esri storymap page for future wetland data dashboard narrative

	<p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
<p>Mitigation Committee report: ILF Public Access Issue Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State only mitigation program is tabled until DNR learns about the NRCS ag mitigation grant • Committee decided to take no action on mitigation bank taxation issue, given variable experience of bank sponsors • DNR no longer pursuing 3 position numbers for the ILF Program, due to a decrease in credit sales and forecasted workload • Discussion on ILF Program public access issue statute change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential concern for private landowners and liability issues for recreation by the public ○ Wetlands being mitigated for typically do not allow public access ○ Council in agreement that a recommendation for public access flexibility is desired <p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize legislative recommendation for ILF public access to review at January WSC meeting.
<p>Future business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 meetings set for 3rd Mondays of odd months • Next meeting, 1/20/22, 9:00 – 11:00 am