

# Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 9, 2025 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Teams and in-person

<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Notes/Follow-up</u>
<b>Call to Order</b>	<p>WSC Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ben Callan (BC)</li><li>- Jeff Kraemer (JK)</li><li>- Tim Andryk (TA)</li><li>- Tracy Hames (TH)</li><li>- Carol McCoy (CM)</li><li>- Stacy Jepson (SJ)</li><li>- Jennifer Schmitz (JS)</li></ul> <p>Other participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tom Nedland (TN)</li><li>- Allison Willman (AW)</li><li>- Tom Pearce (TP)</li><li>- Evan Miller (EM)</li></ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	None
<b>Agenda Approval</b>	<b>Decision:</b> Approved (TA, BC)
<b>Board Minutes Approval</b>	<b>Decision:</b> Approved (JK, BC)
<b>Reminder</b>	July 16 field day in Plover
<b>General Permit Update</b>	<p>BC – 5 GPs (3 renewals and 2 new)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HRGP and AOC GP will be signed into use for public in the near future</li></ul>
<b>Legislative Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TH - Quick reminder about new Legislative session Would like to send handout to Legislature so please provide any recommended changes/edits</li><li>• TA - Should we add an opening statement to legislative handout about charge of WSC? TA to provide suggested language.</li><li>• TN to follow up with DNR Legislative Liaison to work with all concerned parties for Assured Delineator Bill. There remains one additional item to discuss regarding how to address wetland delineation boundary discrepancies. TA – recommends WSC stay out of current review of proposed language. Let authors work through it. TA – who is primary author (Rep Mursau and currently unknown on Senate side)</li></ul>

	<p>JK – When could language be ready to be circulated with assembly? EM explained early March as a target timeline for introducing the bill language.</p>
<b>Integrated Watershed Committee</b>	<p>Will have a document to WSC to present at March meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TA – recommends that the WSC document be developed into formal DNR Guidance.</li> <li>• BC – it could be developed into formal guidance, but there may be other methods, such as reporting out to WSC, to ensure the recommendations are being followed.</li> </ul>
<b>Wetland Dashboard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TP – has data analyzed for 2024, but not on website yet. Data will be posted in a couple of weeks.</li> <li>• TH – would like a discussion at next meeting about what the data shows.</li> <li>• TP – plans on being able to show DOT data on dashboard in 2025.</li> <li>• Discussion about reforming committee – determined that a committee is not needed at this time.</li> </ul>
<b>Act 183/Wetland Exemption Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM – finalizing document. Met week of 1-6. Plan to have a final version to present at WSC in March.</li> <li>• JK – To help figure out who the author of the document should be (DNR or WSC), it would be useful to understand what the main take-aways of the report are. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AW – Document focuses on affects to customer service.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TA – before deciding authorship, will need to see what the document says.</li> <li>• TH – Based on document findings, WSC will determine how to move forward regarding authorship.</li> <li>• BC – is open to having the document be authored by either WSC or DNR.</li> <li>• CM – recommends putting some recommendations at the end of the document and WSC can determine if they will act on the recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This idea supported from both JS and TA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TH – asked if document could be sent before March meeting for WSC to review</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Practices Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC – explained that there have been concerns brought to WSC about conservation projects on agricultural lands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Went over some high level responses to original concerns</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TA – asked about specialization, and whether or not there are still habitat specialists (BC explained that DNR has moved away from that model)</li> <li>• TH – Asked whether there should be a committee formed to help address these issues?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JK – supports the formation of a committee (would like to take part)</li> <li>• TA – supports the formation of a committee (would like to take part)</li> <li>• BC – DNR would like to take part (TN assigned to committee)</li> <li>• SJ – supports committee (would like to take part)</li> <li>• CM – supports committee</li> <li>• JS – supports committee (would like to take part)</li> <li>• BC/TH – recommendation that new committee meet one or two times before March meeting and develop a charter statement</li> <li>• TA – need to make sure the committee includes conservation, ag groups, and permitting staff as part of the conversation.</li> </ul>
<b>New business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JK and BC (11:19)</li> </ul>