

# Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 11, 2023 | 10:00am – noon | Zoom

<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>- Tracy Hames</li> <li>- Dan Helsel</li> <li>- Tim Andryk</li> <li>- Stacy Jepson</li> <li>- Carol McCoy</li> </ul> <p>Other participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jason Mugnaini</li> <li>- Tom Nedland</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comments received
<b>Agenda Approval</b>	<b>Decision:</b> Agenda approved
<b>Board Minutes Approval</b>	<b>Decision:</b> Minutes approved
<b>Council Membership Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New council member Jason Mugnaini pending Governor appointment</li> </ul>
<b>Bill Update from Legislative Testimony on 5/10/23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assured Delineator bill</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Testimony recommended a potential timeline for filing complaints associated with wetland delineations</li> <li>○ Council discussed a potential one year or two year timeline after an assured delineation is submitted to the DNR.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Motion approved to tell Sen. Cowles’ office that WSC recommends language to be added that a timeline for assured delineation complaints should be no longer than two years if such a timeline is contemplated in the bill.</p> </li> <li>• <b>ILF Access bill</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Minor comments but passed without suggested changes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Send decision that WSC is comfortable with a sunset timeline of no longer than two years for filing</i></li> </ul>

	<p><i>complaints for assured delineations to Sen. Cowles' Office.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Council members would like to review an updated bill but does not feel Council approval is necessary for an updated bill to continue through the legislative process.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>DNR Waterways Program team and roles structure update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dan Helsel described that Waterways has switched from having a smaller specialized wetland permitting team to regional permitting staff who will review wetland and waterway permits and be involved in enforcement efforts.</li> <li>• Waterways Program now set up in 4 supervisory regions with 5-6 permit staff in each (NW: 6, NE: 6, SE: 5, SW: 5)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wetland Dashboard Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current page structure has been updated with 2020-22 data.</li> <li>• Council discussed how to treat artificial exemptions in the net gain/loss summary, some concern that they should not be lumped in with other impacts.</li> <li>• New page format discussed previously should be completed in 2-3 months, DOT placeholder data planned to be added for 2023.</li> <li>• Recommended to increase the map and text sizes when possible, for ease of reading.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Item</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>DNR Update Council members when new page structure is live</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Wetland Study Council 2023 Annual Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council did not produce a report in 2022, so this should cover July 2021 – July 2023.</li> <li>• Summarize action items and recommendations and then collect recommendation language in appendices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Integrated Watershed Committee Presentation of Recommendations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Nedland shared the seven recommendations that were developed after interviews with DNR staff and managers from DNR Waterways and DNR Stormwater Programs.</li> <li>• Recommendations include job aids and planning tools for Waterways permit staff, continued collaboration between programs, and pilot MS4 municipality water quality projects.</li> <li>• Suggestion to add action items and deliverables to the recommendations and bring to next meeting for adoption.</li> <li>• Interest in regular progress reporting on specific action items out of this effort.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Item</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bring recommendations to next meeting for adoption</i></li> </ul>

<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>DNR Wetland Program:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The next EPA Wetland Development Grant Application is due this summer, and DNR is pursuing three projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hydrologic Restoration General Permit implementation</li> <li>▪ Long-term hydrology monitoring network</li> <li>▪ Wetland Program Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The Wetland Program Plan is an EPA framework for states and a strategic plan for the wetland regulatory program.</li> <li>○ Suggestion to have Sally Jarosz with DNR Wetland Monitoring to present to the Council at a future meeting.</li> <li>○ DNR interested in close Council partnership in wetland program plan development</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>DNR Wetland Exemptions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DNR has found wetland exemptions to be a high added workload as these are complex requests with a 15-day response deadline and because fees cannot be charged.</li> <li>○ Over 300 wetland exemption requests in 2022.</li> <li>○ Discussion about a report and presentation on wetland exemption activity and concerns later in 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Council Member Check-ins</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest in completing check-ins with each Council member about priorities, time investment, scheduling, and general feedback on what each member would like going forward</li> <li>○ Tracy, Tim, and Tom P. to set up questions and check-ins.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Future business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General interest in no meeting in July, meeting again in September.</li> <li>● Support for a longer in-person meeting in September for time to reset priorities and discuss wetland program plan background.</li> <li>● DNR will work to schedule a longer meeting in September around our 9/14 date.</li> </ul>