

# Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 12, 2024 | 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>• Stacy Jepson</li><li>• Carol McCoy</li><li>• Tracy Hames</li><li>• Tim Andryk</li><li>• Ben Callan</li><li>• Jeff Kraemer</li><li>• Paul Kent</li></ul> <p>Other participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jennifer Western Hauser</li><li>• Jessica Schultz</li><li>• Jane Landretti</li><li>• Melissa Michaud</li><li>• Beth Piliouras</li><li>• Allison Willman</li><li>• Jason Mugnaini</li></ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>Jessica Schultz with Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided background on FWWA, their background, and their conservation goals working with agricultural producers.</li><li>• Running into issues implementing some voluntary conservation practices on agricultural lands. Can we make current permitting process easier for conservation practices?</li><li>• Has been increasingly complicated to obtain approval through the wetland conservation general permit.</li><li>• Exempt practices should include conservation practices.</li><li>• Posed questions on the use of the potentially restorable wetlands layer, and when wetland delineations are required for conservation projects.</li><li>• DNR staff reductions, increased workload, and turnover has affected ability to forge relationships with local contacts.</li></ul> <p>Jane Landretti (representing FWWA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservation projects should be considered normal practices and potentially exempt from wetland permitting.</li></ul> <p>Jason Mugnaini (Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drain tile installation and repair is hurting conservation.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers avoid tile repair to avoid potential wetland permitting and just farm around wetland areas.</li> <li>• Multiple ag groups are concerned with the issue.</li> <li>• DNR will synthesize the comments and concerns for the next WSC meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Approval</b>	<b>Decision:</b> Agenda approved
<b>Board Minutes Approval</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted topic from May 2024 meeting related to GLIFWC request for mapping update on ASNRI/Wild Rice will be held over to November meeting</li> <li>• Noted topic from May 2024 meeting related to DNR internal and external training will be held over to November meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Minutes Approved</p>
<b>Introduce New WSC Member – Jeff Kraemer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of Heartland Ecological Group, representing the WI Business Community, nominated by WI Builders Assoc.</li> </ul>
<b>DNR General Permit Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callan provided background: Five general permits are still on hold until consultation occurs with Tribes. Working to coordinate with Lac du Flambeau and GLIFWC on concerns. Will provide future update.</li> </ul>
<b>Legislative Update – Assured Delineator Bill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hames provided background: WSC previous recommendation that legislature codifies the program. Legislative proposal had some amendments and did not pass last session.</li> <li>• Subcommittee will reconvene to review bill and amendments.</li> <li>• Committee update should be on the November agenda.</li> <li>• Callan is checking internally at DNR on how best to represent agency input in this process.</li> </ul>
<b>Wetland Dashboard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callan provided update: Due to database changes in 2023, there is some work with the data that needs to occur to add 2023 to the data dashboard. DNR is assigning that work, and will provide update at November meeting.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Integrated Watershed Committee Pilot Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent provided background and update: committee work to date and draft document. Hoping to have a more complete document by end of this year or early next.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Act 183/Wetland Exemption Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allison Willman and Jennifer Western-Hauser have been collaborating on the report. Report targeted for November meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interest in Future Field Visits for WSC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hames led discussion: Asked about interest in wetlands tour either in place of regular meeting or separate from regular meeting. Meeting helps illustrate how wetland policies translate into the real world. Callan, McCoy, Kraemer, Andryk, and possibly Kent and Jepson interested in attending. To be discussed and potentially scheduled at November meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hames provided background on development of WSC agendas. Members may respond to DNR email inviting agenda topics, or reach out to Hames, who works with DNR to put agenda together.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting end at 11:20AM</li> </ul>