

Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

MEETING MINUTES

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

<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Notes/Follow-up</u>
Call to Order	WSC Attendees: Tracy Hames (TH) Ben Callan (BC) Tim Andryk (TA) Stacy Jepson (SJ) Paul Kent (PK) Jen Schmitz (JS) Jeff Kraemer (JK) Carol Richardson (CR) Other participants: Tom Nedland (TN) Allison Willman (AW) Tom Pearce (TP) Dave Kafura - Wis County For. Assoc (DK) -
Public Comment	DK – concerns about requiring artificial wetland exemptions in rec trails with no wetland history. Additional information to be provided to WSC.
Agenda Approval	Decision: Approved (TA, BC)
Board Minutes Approval	Decision: Approved (JK, SJ)
Reminder	July 16 Field Day in Plover – Agenda to be developed for May meeting. (TH)
General Permit Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Update about GP 22 and GP 25 – BC JK question about when GP-22 is used vs. Wetland Conservation. TN and TH explained primary use of GP 22 TA – is GP-22 broader than Wetland Conservation GP. TH and TN explained nuanced differences.
Legislative Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WSC information sheet provided to legislature in February – (TN)Assured Delineator Bill (TN) – moving forward. Rep. Mursau is drafting new language that all interested parties expect will be satisfactory to all. JK and SJ verified TN response.
Integrated Watershed Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Share draft with WSC (PK and TH) – Report is moving along. Should be finished soon. Request – please provide feedback to PK and TH by March 31 (evaluative standards and examples). Goal – have a finished report by May. TA – Conservation Committee may borrow some of the ideas provided in this report.
Wetland Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shared webpage and 2024 information (TP)

	<p>Request for update from ILF Coordinator Josh Brown from multiple study council members.</p> <p>TH requested some corrections and clarifications to the wetland dashboard. TP to complete before next WSC meeting.</p>
Act 183/Wetland Exemption Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report/Findings (Richardson and AW) TH – question about the workload estimates. AW to review and update as needed. The report will then be final. TA – Committee would like WSC ideas on recommendations based upon the report findings. PK – Suggests not asking for more staff or longer review periods. Can other ideas be pursued? Assured delineators make determination is one idea. TH and JK thought this could be a good idea, but would need to have sideboards. TH – WSC recommendation could be additional training for program staff. JK – this training opportunity should be extended to externals, too. TA – Would like to request fee authority. PK – a fee is unlikely at this time. TH – suggest noting which recommendations would require legislative action. BC – Have Committee generate ideas, and then Council can determine which ones move forward as recommendations. JK – Maybe DNR should also consider whether time estimates need to balance GP time/workload. Isn't the current exemption faster than a GP? TA – Report should be product of DNR and include committee action ideas for consideration by the WSC at May meeting. TH – should add update Table 3 to show number of requests/county. AW to update.
Conservation Practices Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on progress (TN provided update on steps taken so far) JK and TA – provided a little more background on some of the themes that were heard from outside entities. TA – will be keeping outside groups that we reached out to engaged. TH – would be great to have a presentation at the next meeting on next steps for the committee.
New business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jurisdiction Topic – wetlands vs. navigable pond (Kraemer). Would like to know what guidance Waterways uses to make navigability determination vs. wetland. Eg. Shallow marsh areas – when are they determined to be Chapter 30 vs. wetland. BC – Waterways can provide current guidance on this topic at next meeting. TN – follow up with JK on this Aquatic Plant Management – when is an APM permit approval required (JK – is interested in figuring out

	<p>whether better guidance can be required on when APM permits are needed if wetland is not below OHWM).</p> <p>TH – Next meeting would be good to have JK get in touch with Water Resources Program on what the current requirements are. BC put someone in touch with JK to develop a one pager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar project permitting process – what type of approvals are required for solar projects (TH). BC offered to discuss with TH if it would help to focus the conversation at a future meeting. More to come.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JK, PK 12:07 pm.