

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday December 21, 2022 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84640502791 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 846 4050 2791	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Gollon at 1:00 pm		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Roger Geisking, Dave Gollon, Tim Harrington, Darrell Kreul, Don Leix, and Peter Vanderloo. Excused: Kevin Butteris Others present: Katie Abbott, Casey Michek, Larry Bierke (via zoom)		
Approve the agenda for this December 21, 2022 meeting: Mr. Vanderloo made a motion to approve this December 21, 2022 agenda. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the October 26, 2022 meeting: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the October 26, 2022 minutes. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken. Mr. Harrington mentioned the Aquatic Invasive Species report from Upper Sugar River Watershed Association and had some questions about the budget.		
Introduce Casey Michek, new Conservation Specialist for Iowa Co LCD: Casey introduced himself and was welcomed by the committee.		
NRCS update: none provided		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: the commission discussed park improvements, credit card fees, and reservation software		
Consider Approval of Farmland Preservation Program Notices of Non-Compliance: Ms. Abbott and Mr. Michek provided the list of compliance issues and deadlines, and provided background. Mr. Harrington made a motion to give all of those with missing self-certification paperwork until December 29, otherwise a Notice of Noncompliance (NON) will be issued. Sup. Kreul seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Harrington made a motion to issue a NON for Bill Carden. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Leix made a motion to issue a NON for Larry, Lois, & Paul Nankey et al. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Vanderloo made a motion to issue a NON John Palan. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Kreul made a motion to issue a NON for Jack and Donna Caygill if NMP is not turned in by end of year. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Aye-6, Nay-1. Sup. Leix voted against the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Harrington made a motion to issue a NON for Rod Anding if NMP not in by end of year. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried.		

Sup. Leix made a motion to issue a NON for Ralph and Mary Jean James. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Bunker made a motion to set a new due date of November 2023 for Jamie Gevelinger. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Vanderloo made a motion to issue a NON for Lonny & Lisa Moyer. Sup. Kreul seconded the motion. Aye-6, Abstain-1. Sup. Geisking abstained. Motion carried.

Consider cost-share policy update: Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve the updated policy. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Land Conservation Department updates:

- A) ATC funding for groundwater and recreation projects: Ms. Abbott presented a proposed list of ideas for groundwater and recreation projects, created after meetings with other County staff and partners. Suggestions: ask Highway about river access points; add cisterns to sinkhole closure cost-sharing; make sure we take the time to do it right and get the “biggest bang for our buck.”

Agenda items for future meetings: Enforcement discussion, annual report, 2023 work plan, youth poster contest results. Upper Sugar River Watershed Association- provide more details on use of Aquatic Invasive Species grant funds. Provide other grant updates throughout the year.

Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday January 25 at 1:00 PM in the HHS Community Room. Sup. Kreul made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried.



IOWA COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Projects

Soil and Water

- Installed 17 projects totaling \$58,877 in cost-share: 3 stream crossings, 1 access road, 11 well decommissions, 1 grassed waterway, 1 manure storage abandonment
- Provided additional technical assistance to 6 landowners
- 5 projects designed for 2023
- 2 projects surveyed for cricket frogs
- Contour strips for 2 famers covering 100 acres
- Submitted (and revised) MDV plans; installed 1 stream crossing
- Met with Town of Wyoming and Village of Hollandale to assist with phosphorus trading projects



Nutrient Management and Cropland

- 18 Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) cost-shared totaling \$25,859 and 924 acres
- 19 Cover crop contracts totaling \$20,750 and 830 acres
- 4 no-till contracts totaling \$7,195 and 389 acres
- 9 NMP training classes/sessions; 35 farmers assisted via class or one-on-one
- Processed and reviewed 205 Nutrient Management Plans
- Assisted with permit reviews for 3 new manure storages and 2 storage closures



County Dams

- Completed 11 dam inspections and regular debris clearing
- Successfully applied for Municipal Dam Grant and submitted permit application for 2023 dam repairs
- Participated in regional PL566 dam meetings



Programs

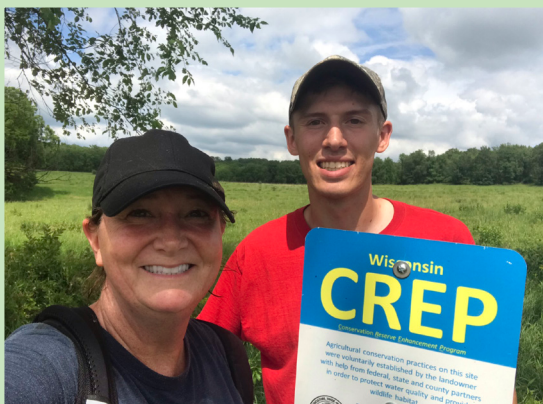
Farmland Preservation

- 53 FPP compliance site visits
- Managed 676 Certificates of Compliance, covering 144,672 acres which equates to over \$1 million in tax credits



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

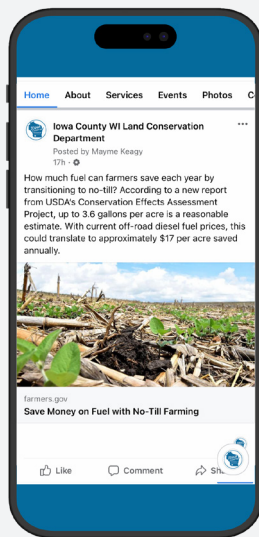
- 11 contracts completed, covering 124 acres and \$37,061 of incentive payments
- Processed 30 cost-share payments, 5 revisions, and 10 transfers
- 10 easement monitoring visits





Outreach and Communications

- Assisted Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group with soil health field day
- Partnered with Pheasants Forever and UW-Extension on workshop for agronomists and ag lenders
- Began department Facebook page: 235 posts; our most successful post reached over 4,000 people
- Renewed Youth Conservation Field Day for over 150 Iowa Co 6th graders
- Led a 4H bluebird house building activity
- Continued Youth poster contest (29 students participated)
- Gave 4 Farmer Awards
- Assisted with area soil judging competition
- Produced and mailed 1 newsletter



Partnerships and Special Projects

- Helped plan and implement the Southwest WI Groundwater and Geology (SWIGG) study final report release event and communications; continued discussions on next steps
- Helped plan and implement tri-county Clean Sweep program
- Worked with Extension and UW-Platteville on new streambank phosphorus research project
- Began implementing Field Profitability Improvement Program with Pheasants Forever and UW-Madison
- Continued implementing Targeted Runoff Management grant in partnership with UW-Extension, and Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
- Continued working with Southern Driftless Grasslands, Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative, and South Central Invasive Partnership
- Joined WI Land & Water Association Legislative/Administrative and Public Outreach Committees
- Facilitated completion of Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Participated on county hazard mitigation meetings, Bloomfield Property planning, Grasslands 2.0 learning hub presentation, UW-Madison nutrient management research, and Driftless Area planning effort



SWIGG

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN
GROUNDWATER AND GEOLOGY STUDY



MICHAEL FIELDS
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE



UNPACKING
CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE



General

- Said goodbye to Conservation Specialist Landon Baumgartner in April and welcomed new Conservation Specialist Casey Michek in October
- Updated department policies



Land Conservation Department 2023 Work Plan summary

Long-term Goal 1: Facilitate farmer/landowner investment in conservation practices

Strategy 1a: Address financial and technical barriers to conservation implementation

- Continue cost-share programs for nutrient management plans, no-till, cover crops, and structural practices (site visits, contracting, designs/permits/as-builts, payments, reimbursements, tracking, reporting)
 - Implement Targeted Runoff Management grant with partners
 - Meet with partner team to plan activities
 - Implement Multi-discharger Variance phosphorus cost-share program
 - 1-2 projects installed; contracting/payments, reporting/P calculations
- Continue Nutrient Management Planning training
 - 2 classroom sessions and 3-5 update sessions for farmers
- Provide non-cost-shared technical assistance/advice as requested/feasible
 - cricket frog surveys on stream projects
- Assist municipalities with phosphorus trading programs as requested/feasible
 - 3-5 baselines created, site visits, project suggestions
- Look for ways to streamline program processes (e.g, online payments/form submittal)
- Keep up-to-date with trends and research needs
 - Complete streambank phosphorus study w/ partners (line up soil testing, final report/grant reimbursement)
 - 1-2 watershed transect surveys
- Leverage partner expertise and resources
 - Attend Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative and Southern Driftless Grasslands meetings
- Influence statewide policies and programs
 - Participate in Land+Water Association meetings and Committees
 - Provide comments on ATCP50 revisions

Strategy 1b: Provide incentives for conservation practices

- Continue Farmland Preservation tax credit program
 - ~170 site visits with follow-up letters and database entry
 - Review NMPs as they are submitted and enter into database (~200)
 - Complete self-certification process for all FPP participants (~675; mailing, payment processing, data entry, reminders, reports)
 - Send compliance reminders as needed
- Continue Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program partnership
 - 10-15 agreements, payments, transfers/revision paperwork, reporting
 - Complete 5-10 easement visits with DATCP
- Continue Field Profitability Improvement Program w/ partners
 - Finish video, more promotion, contracting/payments, reporting
- Use enforcement tools when necessary
 - Review manure storage permit applications and send Certificates of Use
 - Respond to complaints and manure spills; send NR151 noncompliance letters if needed

Long-term Goal 2: Facilitate a culture of conservation in the farm community

Strategy 2a: Increase frequency and variety of conservation messages for famers and landowners

- Create communications calendar w/ content topics: Schedule of FB posts, e-news (4), newsletters (2), videos (4 if possible w/equipment we have), newspaper article (2-4)
- 1-2 Facebook posts per week; increase original/technical content (30/yr)
- Seek grants for video equipment (e.g. microphone for field video)
- Assist partners with fields days or webinars (e.g. Uplands Farmer-led field day)
 - Meet with area partners (counties, extension, non-profits) re: outreach needs/plans

Strategy 2b: Increase awareness/understanding of conservation standards, practices, and programs by ag businesses and consultants

- Continue to build relationships with ag retailers, agronomists, lenders, etc
 - Annual update (via email) for agronomists; notify of events or new programs as needed; add to newsletter list

Strategy 2c: Engage area youth in conservation education

- Continue annual Youth Conservation Field Day (approx. 150 kids- plan/implement with UWEX)
- Continue poster contest
- Assist with school soil health days and/or area soil judging competition as requested
- Create one program that could be used for 4H, FFA, schools, scouts, etc.

Strategy 2d: Recognize farmers for their efforts

- Continue conservation award program (four awards presented)
- Explore other recognition program (farm signs?) and funding needs

Long-term Goal 3: Reduce well and groundwater contamination

- Work with SWIGG team to compile recommendations based on study
 - Collaborate with state conservation-public health partnership
- Begin groundwater quality cost-share program (using ATC funding)

Other activities

Promote wildlife/habitat and recreation practices

- Assist with recreation projects/grant program (using ATC funds) and Bloomfield Property management and planning
- Partner on poison hemlock education/ID; attend South Central Invasives Partnership meetings
- Provide wildlife habitat/invasive species information online and upon request

Maintain County-owned dams

- Complete inspections, mowing, and regular debris removal on all dams
- Complete Birch Lake dam repairs and Municipal Dam Grant/permit requirements

Maintain office tracking and record keeping

- Continue use/maintenance of GIS shapefiles and four databases for program/practice tracking
- Track staff time for grant and program reporting (CREP, TRM, MDV)



2023 Conference At-A-Glance

Wednesday, March 1

Thursday, March 2

Friday, March 3

Pre-Conference Activities (before 11am)					
9:00-11:00	Youth Speaking Contest				
8:30am-11:00am	WI Land+Water Board Meeting	6:30am-8:30am	Breakfast Buffet (time tentative)	6:30am-8:30am	Breakfast Buffet (time tentative)
9:30am-Noon	Silent Auction Item Drop-off	7:00am-6:00pm	Conference Registration Silent Auction/ Exhibits/ Poster Judging Open	7:00am-10:30am	Conference Reg. Pick Up Auction Items
9:00am-4:30pm	Conference Registration				
11:00-Noon	Lunch Buffet	8:00am-9:15am	Breakout Sessions	8:00am-9:00am	Breakout Sessions
11:30-1:30pm	Welcome/Winning Youth Speeches/Keynote	9:15am-9:45am	Refreshment Break	9:15am-10:15am	Breakout Sessions
1:30pm-7:00pm	Silent Auction/Exhibits/ Poster Judging Open	9:45am-11:00am	Breakout Sessions	10:15am-10:45am	Refreshment Break
1:45pm-2:45pm	Breakout Sessions	11am-12:45pm	Luncheon with Alonzo Kelly		Business Meeting Registration
2:45pm-3:15pm	Refreshment Break	1:15pm-2:30pm	Breakout Sessions	10:45am-11:45am	Business Meeting Raffle Drawing
3:15pm-4:15pm	Breakout Sessions	2:30pm-3:00pm	Refreshment Break		
4:15pm-5:00pm	Area Assoc. Meetings	3:00pm-4:15pm	Breakout Sessions		ADJOURN. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.
5:00pm-7:00pm	Social	4:15pm-6:00pm	Social/Exhibits, 50/50 Raffle, End of Silent Auction and Poster Judging		
DINNER ON YOUR OWN - Bus to downtown		6:00pm-8:15pm	Dinner Banquet & Awards		

2023 WI Land+Water Conference Breakout Sessions

Wednesday, March 1, 1:45-2:45pm

Urban Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Stormwater Management. Managing urban stormwater might not be something counties do as routinely as incorporated communities; however, often the county is required to implement BMPs for their own capital projects or to review plans for development in the unincorporated parts of the county. Learn how to select BMPs for different project types, how green infrastructure can be a useful solution for counties, and how to model these practices to show required reductions of total suspended solids. *Presenters: Alan Barrows, Waukesha County; Brooke Robinson and Shannon Haydin, WDNR.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

The Faces of County Conservation in Wisconsin: Session 1. Meet and learn from experienced movers and shakers around the state. The past few years have not afforded staff the chance to meet and learn from others at in-person events. Tailored for new employees but open to all, this session is a great chance to meet others from around the state and hear about lessons learned from seasoned conservationists. Panelists will share a story from their conservation career that helped shape who they are today. *Session 1 will cover moments of personal and career growth*, and Session 2 will focus on the partnerships that make conservation work possible. Attendees will also have the chance to meet and ask questions of the panelists, as well as other partners and agency representatives from all areas of the state. Choose to attend one or both! *Presenters: Tony Reali, Calumet County; Paul Sebo, Washington County; and Travis Tulowitzky, Bayfield County.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

WDNR's Water Grant Programs. The WDNR offers cost-sharing grants to eligible applicants for surface water protection & restoration, recreational boating, and nonpoint source pollution reduction. Whether you're looking for help with outreach, data collection, planning, project design or implementation, there is probably a DNR water grant that can help. During this talk, program staff will provide a quick orientation to three water grant programs: Surface Water Grants, Targeted Runoff Management and Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Grants, and Recreational Boating Facilities Grants. Staff will highlight available funding opportunities, outline the steps you can take to develop a project and apply for a grant, and provide helpful tips on grant management and administration. *Presenters: Alison Mikulyuk, PhD, Roberta Winebar, Joanna Griffin, WDNR.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

NACD: Connecting Federal Conservation Issues to the Local Level. The National Assn. of Conservation Districts (NACD) is an umbrella organization that represents conservation districts (and county land and water conservation departments) at the federal level. NACD advocates for critical conservation issues such as Farm Bill funding, but also offers numerous programs, services, and benefits to local-level county LWCDs. Attend to learn about what NACD can do for you! *Presenters: Beth Mason, NACD North Central Region Representative, and Monte Osterman, WI Land+Water Board Chair and Executive Committee Vice President.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

Observations of water quality and river conditions while voyaging river systems by canoe. *John Sullivan* is a paddling/poling enthusiast who enjoys extended solo canoe trips on rivers. His excursions started in the late 1990s and were focused primarily in Wisconsin. John's initial interest was to follow the paths of early explorers and voyageurs in their journeys from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi and comparing their historical observations to present conditions. Over the past two decades, he has canoed many rivers of Wisconsin, the midwest, and great national rivers including the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi. Along the way he has documented his journeys with photos and journaling and supplemented these observations with general water quality measurements when possible. John's presentation will highlight some of the observations and will illustrate both unique and common problems that were apparent while traveling these waterways, but also show some of the beauty that can be found while descending or ascending rivers from the seat of a canoe. John grew up paddling the flat waters of the Rock River and marshes at Horicon, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Minnesota on the banks of the Mississippi and earned his master's degree studying the Big Eau Pleine River in north central Wisconsin at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. John spent his entire working career with the Wisconsin DNR in the fisheries, wastewater or water quality programs. A website of some of his canoe trips can be found at Irishvoyageur.com.

Wednesday, March 1, 3:15-4:15pm

A Farm Bill Breakdown – the “Other” Federal Conservation Funding Opportunity. The federal Farm Bill is perhaps the most consequential conservation federal funding opportunity, which occurs every four years, including 2023. What is the status on the Farm Bill? What conservation provisions will this year’s Farm Bill contain? How does Farm Bill funding relate to “other” federal conservation programs (Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)? Get answers to these questions and more! *Presenter: Margaret Krome, Policy Director, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

The Faces of County Conservation in Wisconsin: Session 2. Meet and learn from experienced movers and shakers around the state. The past few years have not afforded staff the chance to meet and learn from others at in-person events. Tailored for new employees but open to all, this session is a great chance to meet others from around the state and hear about lessons learned from seasoned conservationists. Panelists will share a story from their conservation career that helped shape who they are today. Session 1 will cover moments of personal and career growth, and *Session 2 will focus on the partnerships that make conservation work possible.* Attendees will also have the chance to meet and ask questions of the panelists, as well as other partners and agency representatives from all areas of the state. Choose to attend one or both! *Presenters: Tina Barone, Dunn County; Dave Ferris, Burnett County; and Matt Hanewall, La Crosse County.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

Steps to building an effective and supported conservation enforcement program. This session will cover building support amongst stakeholders at the county level to develop and implement an effective program to achieve the desired outcomes. *Paul Daigle* spent his career in conservation along with the last 10 years as the Land and Water Program Director in Marathon County where he managed the zoning, POWTS, and non-metallic mining program, as well as managing the conservation programs. He will share his experiences and lessons learned in order for you to establish or improve enforcement at the county level. Topics to be discussed will include when cost sharing is needed and sorting out the roles of the DNR and county staff in enforcement. **1 Professional Development CEU**

Assistance for the Assistant. Are you in the position of rendering assistance to EVERYONE? Join this roundtable discussion session to learn some best practices for the things you do every day. Learn from others in similar positions throughout the state. Compare notes with colleagues and make the assistance you give the best it can be. What do you do for tracking cost share? Is there an easy way to file electronically? What is the best way to track expenses? Is there more to do? What about communication – how do you do it and how do you receive it? Join us for an hour of honest and helpful sharing! (Please note that a session dedicated to transitioning to online tree sales is scheduled for Friday morning.)

Nitrogen Fixing Corn. Understanding how symbiotic associations between plants and microbes develop is an important biological question, particularly relevant in modern agriculture and economy. Researchers in the Ané lab are working on the characterization of maize accessions that can acquire 30-70% of their nitrogen from the air by hosting nitrogen-fixing bacteria in a gel produced by their aerial roots. They’ve found a similar trait in sorghum accessions. These projects could transform how the nitrogen nutrition of food and biofuel crops are met and reduce the dependence of our agriculture on nitrogen fertilizers. *Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Wilker and Fletcher Robbins, UW-Madison Department of Agronomy and Bacteriology.* **1 Crop Management CEU**

Thursday, March 2, 8:00-9:15am

Technical Roundtable #1: Animal Waste Storage 101 and Concrete 101. This roundtable discussion has two parts. The first will focus on the basics of animal waste storage and transfer design. This discussion is for staff with limited knowledge of waste storage/transfer or those that need a refresher. The second is a discussion on concrete basics, which will focus on the requirements of Wisconsin Construction Specification 4 and associated components. The discussion will

Communication Basics for Field Staff. First *Serge Koenig, Sauk County*, will present on strategies one can employ to move people to action in selling conservation practices, as well as cover the interpersonal relationship building skills necessary to establish trust and encourage producers to action. *Rod Webb, Pierce County*, will share additional insights into communicating with landowners. Then *Jim Arch, Clark County*, will provide

be geared to those staff with limited experience using concrete. <i>Presenter: Dennis Marquardt, P.E. DATCP. 1 Nutrient Management CEU / 1 Engineering PDH</i>	attendees with experienced guidance on working with Amish and Mennonite communities. 1 Professional Development CEU
BMP Implementation Tracking System (BITS): DNR and County Perspectives. BITS is an online tool familiar to any county who has received MDV funding or a nonpoint source pollution grant. But what is it? Why was it developed? And how can you become a more efficient user? Join <i>Molly Richardson, DNR's BITS Data Systems Coordinator</i> , as she shares insider information about the history and use of BITS. <i>Tony Reali, Calumet County, and Sarah Kussow, Outagamie County</i> , will also present tips and tricks from their experiences using BITS for MDV and nonpoint grant programs. We'll end with a roundtable discussion in which all are welcome to ask questions and share their feedback. 1 Soil & Water Management CEU	Agroforestry: A Climate Change Solution that is Taking Root. To reduce the impacts of climate change while bolstering farm landscapes and livelihoods to withstand extreme weather events, the Monroe County Climate Change Task Force is partnering with farmers to demonstrate agroforestry, an innovative practice that integrates trees into working landscapes, with co-benefits that sequester carbon, increase animal comfort, build soil, and improve water infiltration. Hear how Tucker & Becky Gretebeck partnered with the Monroe County Land Conservation Department (LCD) and the Savanna Institute to enhance their pasture land to include trees, a practice known as silvopasture. <i>Presenters: Tucker Gretebeck (All Seasons Farm), Bob Micheel (Monroe County LCD), and Matt Wilson (Savanna Institute).</i> 1 Sustainability CEU
Getting the Most Bang for Your Buck from NRCS Local Working Groups. Learn about NRCS Local Work Groups and engage in a discussion on how county Land & Water Resource Management Plans can leverage LCD and NRCS goals, priorities, and funding opportunities. <i>Presenters: Eric Allness (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist – Partnerships) and Melissa Bartz (Assistant State Conservationist – Financial Assistance Programs).</i> 1 Professional Development CEU	

Thursday, March 2, 9:45-11:00am	
Technical Roundtable #2: NRCS Engineering Spreadsheets and Grade Stabilization Structures. This roundtable discussion has two parts. The first will provide an overview of the current NRCS Wisconsin Engineering Spreadsheets found in Section 1 of the Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide. The discussion is designed to help staff know what spreadsheet is available for what purpose and provide general guidance on how to use that spreadsheet. The second part will provide a discussion on the use of Grade Stabilization Structures used for gully erosion. This roundtable will provide staff with a range of options when considering Grade Stabilization Structures in soil and water conservation. <i>Presenters: NRCS Engineering Staff TBD, DATCP Engineering Staff TBD.</i> 1 Soil & Water Management CEU / 1 Engineering PDH	Next Generation of Boots on the Ground: Emerging Conservationists. Are you looking for a way to expand your youth education program? A youth conservation field day may just be the ticket. Get students in an outside learning environment while exploring various aspects of conservation, along with an introduction to careers in natural resources with local partners and having a ball doing it! This is a field day you will walk away feeling very rewarded. Come join Shawano, Outagamie, Adams and St. Croix Counties and learn how we do it. We will also briefly go over all of our core youth education programs to kick off this session. 1 Professional Development CEU
Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Implementation beyond the Tax Credit. Get to know the FPP and agricultural enterprise areas (AEAs) from planning to execution. What does implementation mean beyond establishing eligibility for the tax credit? <i>Presenters: Wednesday Coye, Tim Jackson, and Katy Smith, DATCP.</i> 1 Professional Development CEU	Talking to farmers about conservation finance. You may have a general idea about the economics of conservation, but how do farmers think about conservation and their finances? In this presentation learn common farm finance principles; identify what information farmers need to take to their lenders when they consider adding conservation practices; and get a list of resources for farmers, such as tools to examine the profitability of conservation options and data on the economics of cover crops, reduced tillage, and grazing. <i>Presenter: Paul Dietmann,</i>

Senior Lending Officer of Mission Financing, Compeer Financial.
1 Professional Development CEU

Wisconsin Groundwater: Why are some areas vulnerable to contamination? Over two-thirds of Wisconsinites depend on groundwater as their primary drinking water source. Understanding groundwater and how to protect it is complex. Join the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) to learn about groundwater basics and what makes some areas more vulnerable to contamination. Get connected with the many available resources and meet the experts to help answer groundwater questions in your county. *Presenters: Maureen Muldoon and David Hart, WGNHS.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

Thursday, March 2, 1:15-2:30pm

Technical Roundtable #3: Open Forum - topics to be discussed include Two Staged Ditches, Engineering Certification, Permits, and other subjects to be determined by the audience. This roundtable is an open forum, so bring your questions and concerns and discuss them with your fellow conservationists. *Panel: Mike Dreischmeier, PE, NRCS, Matt Woodrow, PE, WDATCP, Stacy Dehne, PE, WDATCP, and Travis Buckley WDATCP.* **1 Soil & Water Management CEU / 1 Engineering PDH**

Addressing Groundwater Issues at the County Level: The Kewaunee County and Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study (SWIGG) Experiences. Groundwater quality continues to be a statewide issue and Land and Water Conservation Departments are at the forefront of addressing the issue. *Davina Bonness (Kewaunee County) and Katie Abbott (Iowa County)* will provide information on how they have addressed these various aspects to balance the agricultural, environmental, political and public concern, and what the results have been so far. This information can assist other county leaders with potential ways to address groundwater issues in their respective counties. **1 Soil & Water Management CEU**

Insights into Black Bear Management in Wisconsin. Black bears are perhaps the single most emblematic wildlife species of Wisconsin's north woods, and they have distinct cultural, social, and economic values. Seeing a black bear in the wild is an exciting experience for many and an equal thrill for those who prize the black bear as a big game species. Along with this thriving population, some level of conflict with human interests, including agricultural damages, nuisance bears, and occasional human safety concerns, will inevitably occur. This presentation will provide an overview of black bears in Wisconsin, insights into how the DNR and its partners manage the species, and a peek into the future of bears in Wisconsin. *Presenter: Randy Johnson, Large Carnivore Specialist, WDNR.*

Tools and Approaches for Integrating Climate Change Considerations into Forest Management Plans. Not sure where to start in factoring climate change into forest management decisions? Join this session to hear two case studies of how managers have utilized free resources like the Adaptation Workbook, USFS Tree Atlas, and Climate Change Field Guides for WI to help identify and assess climate-related risks for two different project sites in Sauk County and Milwaukee County, and how those tools and approaches helped them establish practical forest management plans with climate change in mind. *Presenters: Ann Calhoun, The Nature Conservancy, and Brad Hutnik, WDNR Division of Forestry.* **1 Sustainability CEU**

Moving from Concept to Contact: Utilizing The Tools for Effective DEIB Conversation and Conflict Resolution. At some point the 'student' becomes the 'teacher'. We are all students when it comes to understanding the 'What' and 'Why' of concepts with respect to Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Belonging, and Critical Thinking. The 'How' and 'When' is the point at which we actively apply our learning to situations and circumstances that challenge our understanding of concepts and their importance. This session will be intentional about active participation designed to enhance our confidence in engaging in conversations though complex, not always necessarily difficult. *Presenter: Alonzo Kelly, Strategic Leadership Partner & Executive Coach and 2022 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

Thursday, March 2, 3:00-4:15pm

Technical Roundtable #4: When Good Projects Go Bad. This roundtable discussion will review what to do when things just don't go right during construction, such as how to handle contractor disagreements, practice failures, unforeseen climatic conditions, and a host of other factors that make practice installation just a bit more challenging. *Presenters: Erik Heagle, Grant County LWCD, and others TBD.* **1 Professional Development CEU / 1 Engineering PDH**

Taking Your Partnership to Light Speed! This popular breakout session is back and better than ever! Successfully navigating a conservation department through the asteroid field of today's funding shortfalls and resource concerns requires respect, collaboration, and communication (even when you speak different languages). Hear lessons learned from experienced and savvy "pilots" in this stellar session on strengthening the LCC/LCD partnership. *Panelists: MaryJo Gingras, Ashland Co. LWCD; Brian Haase, Waupaca Co. LWCD; Amy Piaget, Dane Co. LWRD; Ken Gerhardt, Clark Co. LCC; Mike Hofberger, Calumet Co. LCC; Tom Mandli, Marinette Co. LCC; and moderated by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas Co. LWCD.* **1 Professional Development CEU**

Phosphorus Multi-discharger Variance (MDV) Discussion. Join DNR staff for a discussion-heavy dive into the MDV program. Counties have been receiving phosphorus mitigation funds from point sources since 2018. The program has grown to roughly \$1 million per year, distributed amongst 30 counties on average. Now that many county staff have experience with the program, it's time to come together and discuss the finer points of MDV implementation. DNR staff will step through various program elements while county staff are encouraged to share their experiences, ask questions, and offer solutions. Topics will include program overview and purpose, geographic constraints, trouble spending the funds, prioritizing watersheds and projects, overall compliance (NR 151 and NR 102), and other topics TBD. The BMP Implementation Tracking System will be covered in a separate session. *Presenters: Matt Claucherty and Andrew Craig, WDNR.* **1 Soil & Water Management CEU**

Batch and Build: A New Model for Implementation. A new program in Central Iowa sought a new model for implementing conservation on private lands, resulting in the birth of "The Batch and Build." This new model focuses on simplifying conservation and bringing opportunities to a landowner's front step. After years of trying traditional efforts unsuccessfully on edge of field practices, a team of conservationists developed a method to combine teamwork, fiscal agent funding structure, targeted outreach, and grouped construction. In two years the project constructed 150 saturated buffers and bioreactors, with hundreds more planned for 2023. The model is now being explored and developed for other conservation practices. *Presenter: John Swanson, Water Resources Supervisor, Polk County, Iowa.* **1 Soil & Water Management CEU**

The Discovery, Recovery, and Preservation of the Lake Mendota Canoes. There is indirect evidence that Wisconsin's inland waterways have been used as transportation corridors and to collect resources since the region was first occupied. Up until recently, however, the earliest evidence of a dugout canoe dates to about AD 250. A recent discovery from Lake Mendota in Madison, Wisconsin, demonstrates that water transportation extends back to over three thousand years. In September 2022, a 1,000 BC canoe was recovered in 25 feet of water. This session will examine the recent documentation and recovery of the Lake Mendota Dugout Canoe #2 and discuss how these findings have led to a reinvestigation of the region's climate and lake levels 3,000 years ago. Data from this research and analysis is a preliminary step in understanding Wisconsin's prehistoric maritime landscapes and the people who lived in this region. *Presenter: James M. Skibo, Ph.D., State Archaeologist, Curator of Archaeology, Wisconsin Historical Society.*

Friday, March 3, 8:00-9:00am

"Nontraditional" Partners Working for Clean Water and Resilient Farms. Since 2019, the "clean water initiative," consisting of partners from agricultural and conservation groups, has been partnering to articulate a vision for

Using the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) to demonstrate how cropping practices like cover crops and reduced tillage will lead to improved soil health. This session begins with a review of the updated 328 Conservation Crop Rotation practice standard. The SCI soil conditioning index threshold of 0.5 is

agriculture and water quality in Wisconsin. While the job is not yet done, small victories have been achieved, and lots learned. Hear about what lessons have been learned, and what the group is prioritizing in 2023, and going forward. <i>Presenters: Scott Laeser, Clean Wisconsin; Chad Zuleger, Dairy Business Association; Alex Madorsky, The Nature Conservancy; Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water. 1 Professional Development CEU</i>	designed to help planners reduce soil erosion, reduce or eliminate tillage operations and create a stronger trend of building soil organic matter levels. Building soil organic matter is a goal of many farmers, but it takes many years, even decades to move the needle. Several examples of conservation plans using the current erosion and nutrient management tools to achieve the minimum 0.5 SCI value will be shown. Meeting Tolerable soil loss has always been a minimum requirement for this practice standard and that hasn't changed. <i>Presenter: Mike Stanek, USDA-NRCS. 1 Soil & Water Management CEU</i>
From Fields to Features: Communication Conservation Reaching our conservation goals depends upon not only dedicated conservation professionals, but also an interested public, engaged landowners, and supportive elected officials. This panel explores how we can effectively communicate the value of conservation with various stakeholders through storytelling. <i>WI Land+Water Communications Manager, Kristin Teston</i>, will discuss the importance of effectively framing conservation success stories. <i>WI DNR Project Manager, Mark Riedel</i>, will provide examples of long-term, sustained improvements in water quality in agricultural watersheds in Wisconsin. <i>The Public Outreach Committee</i> will preview a "Communicating Conservation" toolkit, which can help counties tailor their own compelling and persuasive messages for key audiences. 1 Professional Development CEU	Estimating nitrate leaching losses using nitrogen application rates and yield data. This interactive session will demonstrate a new online application for estimating leachable nitrogen from various management scenarios. We will briefly discuss research used to validate a nitrate leaching estimation model and demonstrate how to use the application and existing datasets to understand potential impacts on groundwater quality. If you'd like, bring your laptop and follow along as we go through real world examples to estimate leaching losses using data on nitrogen inputs (i.e. fertilizer, manure, irrigation water) and yields for a variety of different crops. If you have data on application rates and yield from local fields/cropping systems that you'd like demonstrated, please send inquiries to kmasarik@uwsp.edu in advance of the conference. <i>Presenter: Kevin Masarik, Groundwater Education Specialist, UW-Stevens Point. 1 Soil & Water Management CEU</i>
A Deep Dive into Wisconsin's Invasive Species Regulations, Decontamination, and Identification of AIS. Wisconsin has a comprehensive and science-based law with criteria that makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer or introduce certain invasive species. The intent of the invasive species rule, Wis. Admin. Code NR 40 is to prevent new invasive species from entering and becoming established in Wisconsin. NR 40 also requires certain preventative measures to be taken that are not species specific but complement existing statutes and rules. This presentation will describe these aspects of law, discuss preventative and decontamination measures, and introduce some aquatic and wetland invasive species you can be on the lookout for. <i>Presenter: Amy Kretlow, WDNR. 1 Professional Development CEU</i>	

Friday, March 3, 9:15-10:15am	
Basics of Soil Health and Climate Smart Agriculture. This presentation will cover: (1) the basics of how soil health indicators relate to soil functions such as climate resilience, (2) how soil health practices including cover crops and no-till impact soil health, and (3) new opportunities for implementing conservation activities and monitoring alternative management strategies through the Inflation Reduction Act. <i>Presenter: Andrew Paolucci, NRCS Soil Scientist. 1 Sustainability CEU</i>	How to successfully host your tree sale online. Counties have been hosting annual tree sales for many years; however, often times it can become difficult to track orders, collect sales tax, and effectively communicate with customers. In this session, three counties will share their experiences moving their tree sales to an online store front. <i>Presenters: Melissa Schlupp, Sauk County; Haillie Passow, Trempealeau County; and Leanna Bender, Pepin County.</i>
Wetlands Permitting 101. Hear from <i>Nate Walker, WDNR</i>, about wetland permits and the new Hydrologic Restoration General Permit (GP) and how to use it in the 2023 field season. 1 Soil & Water Management CEU	Working Wildlife Habitat onto Your Working Lands. The majority of Wisconsin's landscape is dominated by private lands, many of which are actively farmed by Wisconsin's agricultural producers. These lands provide critical habitat to Wisconsin's array of songbirds, beneficial insects, and game

	bird species. Given the quantity of privately-owned lands in the state, the impact that can be achieved by doing wildlife-focused conservation projects on these lands is considerable. Pheasants Forever (PF) is a non-profit environmental organization that works with Wisconsin farmers to find conservation practices that balance the needs of the farm and the wildlife that call Wisconsin home. Marty & Josh will discuss the PF resources that are available to county conservation staff and the farmers that they work with. <i>Presenters: Marty Moses, Wisconsin State Coordinator, and Josh Bendorf, Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist, Pheasants Forever.</i> 1 Professional Development CEU
Protecting our Pollinators: The Importance of Plant and Program Diversity. Bees, beetles, and butterflies! Flower-rich habitats are integral to cultivating the unique relationships between our native pollinators and their host plants. We'll review some of the creative ways Xerces and counties are laying the groundwork for pollinator conservation by planting quality habitat and inspiring community action. The presentation will include a background on pollinator biology + habitat needs as well as examples of projects, including the Xerces' budding habitat kit program and Dane County's Free Native Plant volunteer growing program, which has provided over 29,000 free plants to school and community projects. <i>Presenters: Micah Kloppenburg, WI Pollinator Habitat Specialist, Xerces Society, and Susan Sandford, Strategic Engagement Coordinator for Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept.</i> 1 Professional Development CEU	