



*Wisconsin Association
of
Land Conservation Employees*

**WALCE Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Wednesday, July 16, 2008
Stevens Point WI**

1. Meeting called to order 9:45 am by President Kurt Calkins

Present were Ed Hernandez, Greg Baneck, Greg Leonard, Dan O'Connell, Keith Marquart, Coreen Fallet (DATCP), Richard Castelnuovo (DATCP), Kurt Calkins, Derek Kavanaugh, Pat Murphy (NRCS), Julian Zelazny (WLWCA)

2. Minutes from April 11th 2008 approved, with corrections. Hernandez/Leonard Carried, all in favor.

3. President's Report. Reported on activity since last meeting. Discussed each board member shall be assigned to a committee. Discussed making CC reports/news available to general WALCE members to keep staff informed. Calkins was asked to address a committee in SW WI to address regional issues involving NRCS and LCD programs from a WALCE perspective. Briefly discussed the Karst Report.

4. Treasurer's Report – Hernandez reported on status of CDs. Mileage rates increased to \$0.585/mile, budget will need to be adjusted accordingly. Additional funds will be kept free for the 2009 WALCE Annual Meeting. Mileage reimbursement policy was briefly discussed. It will be addressed in the future it is becomes an issue. Work on the WALCE website continues. Hernandez reported that Sweeney will need to have committee chairmen maintain their own portion of the blogsite on the WALCE webpage. Policy for scholarship awards was discussed. Reimbursement policies were discussed. Motion by Baneck/O'Connell to approve the treasurer's report. Carried, all in favor.

5. Approval of expense vouchers. None. Waiting on approvals to pay website hosting fees, and WLWCA lobbyist expenses.

6. Administrative Committee Report – Johnson was absent, no report presented. Administrative Committee will meet July 30th.

7. Professional Improvement Committee (PIC) Report – Pohle absent, report presented by Hernandez. The 2010 WALCE Professional Improvement Conference will be located in Lacrosse. O’Connell (per Pohle) reported on meeting with SITCOM to address training needs and centralizing training opportunities throughout the state. Eliminating the evening banquet at annual meeting, saves a large of money, and has been well received by WALCE Conference attendees.

8. Technical Committee (TC) Meeting – Micheel was absent, summary was present by O’Connell. TC report was distributed to board. CAFO engineering/approval issues were discussed. Inconsistencies between DATCP Engineers and WDNR Engineers are causing backlogs of projects. Castelnovo reported that this issue is currently being addressed. Murphy will report back to JR (John Ramsden).

8a. Approve Tim Seidl to Wildlife Subcommittee (TC) to replace Greg Leonard. Motion Leonard/Baneck. Carried, all in favor.

9. Castelnovo distributed a letter from WI Dept of Administration, addressing Act 226 Preliminary Lapse Allocations, which directions DATCP to reduce budget expenses by \$3.2 million. It may have serious implications to the availability of SWRM funds. DATCP Staff funding was discussed.

10. Calkins reported he attended meeting the UWEX, DATCP, DNR, and environmental groups. Two issues were discussed – The technical and social aspects of NMP. UWEX/Discovery Farms approach (i.e. are NMPs working?) Are current NMP standard being accepted and implemented by farmers?

11. Calkins reported that he signed and returned transect survey contract for this year.

12. Records retention policy for WALCE was discussed. Discussed electronic storage versus paper copies. Issue will be taken up by a adhoc committee.

13. Discussed sources of funding for repairing flood-damaged conservation practices.

14. Agency Reports

14a. WLWCA – Zelazny reported that statewide Environthon is completed. WLWCA Dec Conference in Appleton (Paper Valley). WALCE will be selling raffle tickets at the event (Baneck). Zelazny is available to present new due structure to counties supervisors. Working with LCV (League of Conservation Voters) on getting the P-Ban passed, Karst Task Force Report into legislation, groundwater management legislation (large withdrawals, etc).

14b. DATCP Fallet distributed a written report to the board. LWRM plans were discussed. DATCP is suggesting that counties write 10-yr (5-yr + 5-yr extension)

14c. DNR – Lohr was absent. Written report was presented by Kavanaugh.

14d. NRCS - Murphy reported the the rule writing for the current Farm Bill is underway. The final Farm Bill was approved in June. NRCS has 90 days to write the rules. WALCE should review and comment on the rules before they are finalized. A written report was distributed to the board. Additional \$4.5 million was added to EQIP for ag waste. EQIP 'cookbook' is being finalized. Sheet and Gully erosion rules and enforcement options were discussed. Castelnuovo will check to see what other counties are utilizing for enforcement options, such as local ordinances. FOIA status, regarding NRCS/FSA records was discussed. FOIA is addressed in the new Farm Bill, written permission is still required for a accessing information.

15. Next meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with the fall County Conservationist meeting in Waupaca. Date will be set by Kavanaugh/Calkins.

Other Business: AutoCAD User group organization was discussed (contact O'Connell)

16. Meeting Adjourned at 12:20pm until Fall County Conservationist Meeting in Waupaca. Motion by O'Connell/Baneck. Carried. All in favor.