



**Wisconsin Association
Of
Land Conservation Employees**

2009 Administrative Committee Report By: Greg Baneck

The Administrative Committee had a very active year and provided valuable input on several key issues that impact day to day operations with Land Conservation Departments. The biggest was the 2009-2011 Biennial Budget process.

- 2009-2011 Biennial Budget – The Administrative Committee worked very closely with WLWCA and the WALCE Officers to formulate an effective approach to retain staff and program funding in the budget process. The main points of the position included
 - Returning \$500K cut to the base of the staffing grant allocation and utilizing SEG funds to backfill other shortfalls.
 - Returning the \$3 million in SEG money to fund Nutrient Management and staff funding.
 - Reject efforts to eliminate the Land and Water Conservation Board.

Additional cuts were later proposed, and thanks to the efforts of WLWCA and WALCE, staffing grants were spared by utilizing remaining SEG dollars to at least maintain the staffing levels at a rate consistent with the previous year.

- 2010 Preliminary Allocation Plan – DATCP proposed to reduce staffing grant allocations statewide by \$225K under the original Preliminary Allocation. The Administrative Committee developed a list of talking points for Counties to use in order to submit letters in opposition to the preliminary allocation as proposed. Thanks to the efforts of the members of the Admin Committee for working with Counties from their respective areas to draft letters, 56 letters were submitted to DATCP in addition to those submitted by WALCE and WLWCA and other Conservation partners. As a result of these efforts, the \$225K was returned to the staffing allocation, undoubtedly saving several positions statewide. Funding was also saved to recognize the Conservation Farmer of the Year through the same process.
- Most recently, the Administrative Committee is working on an official position letter with regard to the NR151, 153, and 155 revisions. The Committee will be finalizing this position letter during the WALCE Convention in La Crosse in order to share it with other Counties who may also wish to provide comment and meet the March 12th deadline.

- On the Horizon – Several listening sessions are currently being held around the state to receive comments for potential revisions to the Livestock Sighting Rule Package. The Admin Committee will be discussing the issues and potentially weighing in.
- DNR is in the process of establishing a “General Permit” process for CAFO’s. Several listening sessions are on the docket for this Spring, and WALCE will certainly be watching this process very closely.

Members of the Administrative Committee Include – Greg Baneck – Chair, Kurt Calkins – President, Matt Zoschke, Dan Masterpole, Greg Cleereman, Chris Murphy, Steve Oberle, Shawn Esser, and Perry Lindquist. Julian Zelasny represents WLWCA on the Committee.