



Wisconsin Association
of
Land Conservation Employees

DRAFT

WALCE Board Minutes

9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 22, 2008

**Room 1, Portage County Courthouse Annex
Stevens Point, WI**

1. Meeting called to order by President Dale Hanson. Present were Hanson, Calkins, Van Berkel, Gingras, O'Connell, Leonard, Marquardt, Micheel and Johnson from WALCE. Pillsbury from NRCS.

2. Minutes from the October 30, 2007 Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Leonard/Marquardt. All in favor.

3. President's Report. Hanson reported on highlights of his term and his thoughts on the present status of WALCE.

Items 4., 5., and 6 were delayed pending Hernandez' arrival.

7. Administrative Committee referrals and updates - Johnson.

A. Strategy for comments on NR151, Roles of Adm. Committee and Board. Johnson outlined Administrative Committees approach and the identified issues to be addressed. The Administrative Committee intends to focus on three points; specific code changes, the lack of an implementation plan and the need for coordination with local implementation efforts.

B. Interagency Information and Education Committee for NR151. Seeking appointees. Added specifically in amended agenda as item D.

C. Draft 2008 Adm. Committee Workplan - solicit Board ideas and comment. Johnson presented the topics identified by the Administrative Committee to be addressed in 2008. They include; state staffing grants and the state budget, energy initiatives, Wisconsin Way, invasive species and biodiversity, revisions to NR151, NR153 and ATCP50, Working Lands Initiative, and CREP. Board suggested expanding scope of energy initiatives to include sustainability initiatives as a more all-encompassing topic and adding an evaluation of the effectiveness of the nutrient management implementation efforts.

***D. Approve appointment of Stephanie Hofmann, Washington Co. to Agricultural Performance Standards Information and Education Committee**

Johnson had requested nominees to serve on this Committee and has since received these additional individuals along with the Stephanie Hofmann nomination; Shawn Esser, Marathon County, Russ Hagen, Crawford County, Derek Kavanaugh, Green Lake County and Dale Hanson, Barron County. Motion by Calkins/Gingras to appoint these persons to serve on the Information and Education Committee. Carried.

8. Professional Improvement Committee referrals and updates - O'Connell filled in for Pohle and updated the Board on the following; there will be increased funds for scholarship if the proposed budget is approved, scholarship forms can be completed on-line through the WALCE Website, John Exo has been appointed to serve on the Professional Improvement Committee representing UWEX, the Committee has awarded six scholarships for \$1100 to date, and the 2009 Professional Improvement Conference has been contracted for the Comfort Suites in Green Bay.

9. Technical Committee referrals and updates - Micheel reported on the Fall Tour and the proposal in the 2008 WALCE budget to underwrite \$500 of the expenses related to this event, the progress on the Transect Survey revisions and the establishment of a Manure Management Safety Review Committee by NRCS.

***A. Approve appointment of Paul Klose, Marinette County to Technical Committee.** Motion by O'Connell/Leonard to approve the appointment of Klose. All in favor.

10. Final approval of proposed by-law revisions and approval to submit to membership for Consideration. Van Berkel reviewed the most recent changes. Motion by Leonard/O'Connell to submit to membership for review and possible approval at the February annual meeting. All in favor.

11. Report on NR151/153 Rule Revision Committee meetings. Item was covered as part of the update from the Administrative Committee. No further discussion.

12. Discussion of NM funding implementation efforts and possible WALCE role. Hanson recommended the Board keep a close watch on this as it may well be used to justify future funding efforts. This topic was suggested previously as a Board recommendation to the Administrative Committee 2008 Workplan.

13. Approval of agreement for re-design of WALCE web site. Board identified the amount included in the proposed 2008 budget for this purpose as appropriate but no other information was available.

14. Update on ballot for Association officer positions. Van Berkel presented the slate of officer candidates; Calkins running for President, Baneck and Kavanaugh running for Vice President. Hernandez agreed to continue as Treasurer, no one volunteered to be Secretary. Van Berkel reaffirmed his desire to step down. Board agreed to recruit candidates for the Secretary position.

15. Development of the WALCE Annual Meeting Agenda for conference. Hanson requested any suggested topics be emailed to him. Board discussed ways to encourage membership from those employees not attending the conference.

16. Consider approval of appointment of John Exo as UWEX representative to Professional Improvement Committee. This is an Extension appointment to advise a WALCE Committee and did not need confirmation or approval.

17. Selection of 2007 Outstanding Employee Award winners. Board reviewed nominations and selected Janell Newcomb for the Administrative Assistant, Dave Ferris for County Conservationist and Ken Anderson for the Technician awards. It was noted that the quality of the applicants and the number of nominations made selection very difficult. In the future the Board may want to consider a more detailed nomination that would provide some uniform categories from which to review qualifications. The fact that the number and quality of nominations is steadily rising is a reflection of the professionalism exhibited and of the respect these positions deserve.

Presentation of a special recognition award was approved for Tom Ward for 30 years of leadership and dedicated service to Wisconsin's conservation efforts.

18. Agency and Association Reports.

Snow prevented the attendance of most advisors.

A written report from DATCP was handed out.

Pillsbury, NRCS reported for Murphy, regarding EQIP, CSP and the Farm Bill.

4. Treasurer's Report. Tabled, Hernandez did not arrive.

5. Approval of expense vouchers. Tabled, Hernandez did not arrive.

6. Review of proposed 2008-2009 Budget. Motion by Van Berkel/Calkins to submit proposed budget for Association approval at the annual meeting. All in favor.

Hanson reported that Mark Cupp, Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Chair has asked for input into what the future role for the LWCB may be and how to strengthen this Board for the betterment of the conservation efforts in Wisconsin. He suggested comments be sent to Calkins and himself.

19. Establish next meeting date and location. Board meeting was established for April 11 after conclusion of the County Conservationist meeting in Waupaca.

20. Adjourn. Motion by Leonard/O'Connell to adjourn until the April 11 date. All in favor.