

# WALCE Technical Committee (TC)

February 2008

**Background:** The WALCE Technical Committee was formed upon the re-organization of WALCE that was finalized in February 2004. The Technical Committee membership consists of two members from each of the 4 areas plus one member from the WALCE Board.

The Technical Committee is charged with addressing issues relating to Land Conservation technical activities, including but not limited to the guiding principles. The committee will assume responsibility for our representation on existing committees (SOC, STC, etc.) and future technical-related committees. Its chair would speak for the association on technical issues.

## 2007 Technical Committee accomplishments and committee updates:

- The 3rd annual fall Technical Tour was held in the Southern Area this past September. 35 participants toured the Leopold Legacy Center in Sauk County and a composting barn in Columbia County. Participants had the opportunity to view Aldo Leopold's shack and land mgt practices he started and current management strategies. The Legacy Center (Green building) is rated number 1 in the country exemplifying green construction, gave participants many ideas for personal construction and future building decisions.
- Listing manure storage facilities on the Realtors Disclosure list took a step closer to reality with a meeting between the Realtors Association, County Association and Farm Bureau. The consensus is to list storage facilities on the realtors in-house check list; which a majority of realtors utilize in WI.
- Continued progression of the WALCE website technical Links.
- Planning for the 2008 WALCE fall tour is scheduled for the Northern Area
- Assist/assess training needs of WALCE employees.

**Wildlife Committee:** (Greg Leonard) – The wildlife committee primary focus this past year was on the submittal of State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) projects to expand on CRP and CREP projects. The projects submitted included:

- \* The Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area, located in Lafayette, Green, Iowa and Dane Counties
  - \* The Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area, located in Adams, Clark, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties
  - \* The Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area, located in St. Croix and Polk County
  - \* The Karner Blue Butterfly Project, Restoration And Enhancement Of Short Grass Prairie In Parts Of The Chippewa And Black River Basin located in Eau Claire, Pepin, Jackson Counties
- These SAFE project proposals are standing out in Washington DC, with the Wisconsin SAFE proposals being among the best proposals nationwide. These projects are currently waiting on events with the rest of the farm bill.

**NR – 151 Revision Committee:** (Paul Sebo) - As the rule revision workgroup was being developed and volunteers sought, the WALCE Board suggested that some representation from Technical staff be added to provide more field experience to the discussion. Paul Sebo has been attending these sessions in that capacity offering input from the technical viewpoint. Highlights of the proposed performance standard will include: a Phosphorus Index (PI) of 6 separate from the Nutrient Management Standard, and a tillage setback performance standard. Additional changes include; language revisions on manure storage abandonment and the addition of feed storage leachate and milk center waste to the definition of "Direct Runoff". For additional information on the proposed changes a breakout session is scheduled at the WALCE Conference on Thursday, from 10:00 - 11:30.

**State Technical Committee:** (Bob Micheel) – A variety of issues were brought to the committee in 2007: Corn for ethanol and meeting T; Game farms (pheasants) and managing CRP; implications of Karst topography and the current manure storage standard; PL-566 dam repairs after the August floods; Future farm bill; Implementation of flat rates for cost-sharing conservation practices; and program mgt. of EQIP, WHIP, GRP, CRP, etc.

**Livestock Subcommittee:** Addressed the future statewide animal waste management program.

Recommended continued funding for existing and expanding operations, regardless of animal numbers.

Eliminate cost sharing for sand separation and changed wording from concrete sand separation to concrete for solid removal.

**Transect Survey Committee:** (Paul Sebo) – At the time this report was being drafted this committee is continuing to field test the eighth version release of what will be known as Win Transect, which is being developed through a research agreement with the University of Wisconsin Soils Department and the same master mind behind Snap Plus. Win Transect will replace the old often broken DOS Transect Survey Database. The committee's priority right now is to thoroughly test this latest release and develop a priority list of improvements and modifications for the 2008 grant (\$15,000.00) that has been authorized by DATCP. Win Transect has been developed to replace the old soil loss model USLE with RUSLE 2. The program is capable of importing all past transect data. For more information on this program contact Mr. Sebo (see contact info on page 2).

**Manure Management Safety Review Team:** (Corey Schuelke) – Is charged with assessing current manure management practices and to provide recommendations to reduce the risk of accidents from manure related systems. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to the development of policies and procedures, required safety practice's, the possible elimination of unacceptable practices, and the amending of existing operations and maintenance plans. The team's recommendations are expected late spring or early summer.

**Design Tools –**(David Nashold) – During the last year this committee has been updating the roof runoff design spreadsheet, the waterway design spreadsheet, and AutoCAD templates. The group has provided input to the updates of barnyard runoff models (BARNY and BERT). Ongoing work includes pipe diaphragms, culvert outlets and consideration of WinPond pond design software.

**Contacts:** As a Technical Committee, we feel our role is to establish a clear and open avenue of communication between the general membership and the WALCE Board. Each area has representation on the Technical Committee and should utilize this resource when dealing with technical questions & or issues that affect your work. Thanks to Jeremy Johnson for his years of service/commitment in establishing the WALCE TC. We encourage attendance by all interested personnel. The next scheduled meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Portage County Courthouse Annex in Stevens Point. The following is a contact list for the TC: **New area reps**

Central:

- Doug Denk – Marathon Co. – [dddenk@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:dddenk@mail.co.marathon.wi.us) or (715) 261-6038
- Corey Schuelke – Waupaca Co. – [cschue@co.waupaca.wi.us](mailto:cschue@co.waupaca.wi.us) or (715) 258-6483

East:

- Paul Sebo – Washington Co. – [paul.sebo@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:paul.sebo@co.washington.wi.us) or (262) 335-4800
- Paul Fredrich – Kewaunee Co. – [fredricp@kewauneeeco.org](mailto:fredricp@kewauneeeco.org) or (920) 845-1360 ext.110

North:

- Paul Cook – Burnett Co. – [paul.cook@dss.co.burnett.wi.us](mailto:paul.cook@dss.co.burnett.wi.us) or (715) 349-2186
- **Paul Klose** – Marinette Co. – [pklose@marinettecounty.com](mailto:pklose@marinettecounty.com) or (715) 732-7782

West:

- Matt Hanewall – La Crosse Co. – [hanewall.matt@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:hanewall.matt@co.la-crosse.wi.us) or (608) 785-9867
- **Chair:** Bob Micheel – Monroe Co. - [bmicheel@co.monroe.wi.us](mailto:bmicheel@co.monroe.wi.us) or (608) 269-8975

WALCE Board Liaison:

- Dan O'Connell – Portage Co. – [conned@co.portage.wi.us](mailto:conned@co.portage.wi.us) or (715) 346-1324

Respectfully Submitted by:

Bob Micheel - Technical Committee Chair