



LAND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

John Lefebvre
Director

Greg Cleereman
Conservationist

Tina Barnes
Property Lister

AGENDA LAND INFORMATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 13th 2017
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Marinette County Courthouse – Land Information Department Room (C129)

1. Call meeting to order
2. Welcome Supervisor Penny Chaikowski
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes of the February 13th, 2017 meeting.
5. Any person desirous of addressing the Committee on any subject under the Committee's jurisdiction shall first obtain permission from the Committee Chairperson. All such addresses shall be limited to 5 minutes unless otherwise extended by the Committee Chairperson.
6. Reports by cooperating agencies. Action, if any.
 - Farm Services Agency ~ Program Updates for month
7. Correspondence. Action, if any. (Correspondence if not specifically listed below will be for information only)
8. Discuss/consider recommending to the County Board the adoption of a resolution Supporting Efforts to Close Commercial Property Assessment Loopholes. Action, if any.
9. Discuss/consider date and location of annual summer Committee meeting out in the County. Action, if any.
10. Report(s) by Land Information Staff on Departmental programs and activities. Action, if any.
 - Update on the LMLWCA (Lake Michigan Land & Water Conservation Association) Business Meeting in Marinette County ~ May, 2017.
 - February LWCD activities
11. Review schedule of invoices February 2017. Action, if any.
12. Schedule next meeting ~ Monday, April 10, 2017
13. Identify possible items for discussion and consideration at the next meeting.
14. Adjourn

Ted Sauve	Gilbert Engel	Penny Chaikowski
Clancy Whiting	Robert Holley	Mary Noll
Fred Meintz	Renee Miller	Kathy Brandt

NOTE: Agenda items may not be considered and acted upon in the order listed. Supervisors present at this meeting may constitute an unintended quorum of other County Board Committees. Only Supervisors appointed to the Committee shall participate in action. Others may be present to listen and observe.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a special accommodation while attending this meeting, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify the County Clerk, Marinette County Courthouse (715-732-7406) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting in order to make suitable arrangements. Thank you. (TDD #715-732-7760)





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MEETING OF THE LAND INFORMATION COMMITTEE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017 COURTHOUSE – LAND INFORMATION CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present: Ted Sauve, Rick Polzin, Clancy Whiting, Robert Holley, Gilbert Engel, and Mary Noll

Members Excused: Fred Meintz

Others Present: John Lefebvre, LID; Greg Cleereman, LID-LWC; Aleta DiRienzo, LID-LWC; Ross Mielke, APHIS; Jeremy Irish, APHIS; and Renee Miller, ROD.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sauve at 9:02 a.m.
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION (Holley/Polzin) to approve the agenda and addendum as presented. Motion carried no negative vote.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION (Polzin/Engel) approve the minutes of January 9, 2017 as presented. Motion carried no negative vote.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
None
5. REPORT BY LAND INFORMATION STAFF
 - **Wisconsin Association of Environmental Educators Winter Workshop ~ Anne Bartels, Information Education Specialist** (*Moved up from Item 14~ Anne had a program in Menekaunee to teach having to leave early*). The theme for the Winter Workshop was Play – Create – Educate. Had a session on tree and shrub identification, School Gardens that ties into the Children's Garden at Harmony Arboretum (received some good information and shared it with Gina and Scott of UWEX), and had a speaker about Forest Kindergartens where kids go outside every day, no matter what the weather is. This is a new concept for the US – been going on in Europe for a while. January and February have been busy months with the TOAD (Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery). January reached 675 children and February looks to be over 500 children reached – these are up from last year's



figures. In the down time ~ busy with planning for Sand Lake Conservation Camp and maintenance of TOAD equipment and pelts. Also am writing the wildlife test for Wisconsin Envirothon. The Envirothon is an environmental knowledge competition for High School students held in April.

6. REPORTS BY COOPERATING AGENCIES

USDA – FSA ~ Report by Mary Noll, FSA Representative ~ Important deadlines to keep in mind: Now - August 1, 2017: ARC/PLC Contract Enrollment: Now - March 15, 2017: Non-Insured Assistance Program ~ deadline to apply for coverage on spring planted crop. Conservation compliance: Producers participating in USDA programs will need to contact their local FSA office prior to modifying, tilling, draining, dredging, filling, clearing, or leveling any wetland or drainage ditches. Failure to contact the FSA office could result in loss of all federal payments, including crop insurance premium support and USDA program eligibility. As of January 23, 2017 Oconto-Marinette will also be having shared management with the Shawano-Menominee office as they are currently without a County Executive Director. USDA recently launched a new service called Bridges to Opportunity that connects farmers and ranchers to services beyond the traditional USDA programs and Loans. Contact the local FSA office to learn more about Bridges to Opportunity at 920-829-5406.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

For information only ~ February 2017 DATCP Report

8. TRANSFER FROM NON-LAPSING ACCOUNT FOR ENVIRONMENT SITE ASSESSMENT

MOTION (Whiting/Holley) to recommend to the Finance Committee and the County Board the transfer of \$10,000 from the non-lapsing account for Environmental Site Assessment to the Environmental Site Assessment Purchase of Service Account to cover costs associated with bringing the Wausaukee Laundromat Site Environmental Investigation to closure. Motion carried no negative vote.

9. WILD RIVERS INVASIVE SPECIES COALITION WATERCRAFT INSPECTOR GRANT

MOTION (Engel/Polzin) to accept and administer a grant from the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition to fund project position Watercraft Inspectors and associated costs, subject to the Marinette County Corporation Counsel's review of the grant agreement. Motion carried no negative vote.

MOTION (Holley/Noll) to recommend to the Personnel Committee approval of the two Watercraft Inspector Project positions, not to exceed 540 hours total between the two positions. Motion carried no negative vote.

10. 2016 WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM CLAIMS

MOTION (Polzin/Noll) to approve the 2016 Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program claims as presented. Motion carried no negative vote.

11. ASSIGNMENT TO AGRICULTURAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Postponed ~ Place on agenda for March 13, 2017 Land Information Committee Meeting.

12. 2017 WI COUNTIES CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE
MOTION (Engel/Polzin) to approve the Registrar of Deeds attendance at the 2017 Wisconsin Counties Constitutional Officers Conference held in Madison, March 6 – 8, 2017. Motion carried no negative vote.
13. LAKES CONVENTION ATTENDANCE
MOTION (Whiting/Holley) to approve the Water Quality Specialist's attendance at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention held in Stevens Point, April 5 – 7, 2017. Motion carried no negative vote.
14. SUMMER LAND INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Postponed ~ Place on agenda for March 13, 2017 Land Information Committee Meeting.
15. REPORTS BY LAND INFORMATION STAFF ON DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS
- County Non-Metallic Mining Program ~ Program regulates sand, gravel, pit run, granite etc. that is over an acre in size. In Marinette County there are 77 active mines, 24 are owned by the county or towns, 53 are privately owned, 62 actively mining, with in excess of \$1.5 million in financial assurance.
 - Lake Michigan Land & Water Conservation Association Planning & Budget Meeting ~ Marinette County will be hosting the Spring Meeting on May 19. The LMLWCA Summer Tour will be hosted by Sheboygan County on July 28th.
 - County Deer Advisory Council Meeting held on January 18 ~ A Power point was shown about Chronic Wasting Disease. There is no cure or medicine for this disease. It has been researched that even after 5 years the disease is still showing up in the soil within the perimeter fence of a closed deer farm.
 - Wisconsin Land & Water Legislative Administrative Committee meeting held on January 19 ~ DATCP cost share on Nutrient Management Plans is going up from \$7 to \$10 but with no increase in the cost share amount. Means that we can cost share fewer acres than we could before. The effective date will be January 1, 2018. There are differences between the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding wetlands. The NRCS looks at wetlands as pertaining to the Farm Bill while the WI DNR uses the Clean Water Act. The two organizations have completed a Memorandum of Understanding to work out this disconnect.
 - January LWCD activities
 - Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist ~ busy with completion of a dredged channel to facilitate drawdowns of Beecher Lake to control Eurasian Water Milfoil. Helping the City of Peshtigo with the fish viewing platform. Helped the Lake Noquebay Rehabilitation District with a grant for a new aquatic plant harvester.
 - Paul Klose, Conservation Technician ~ been working on several projects for committees he is on. Developing a standard for milk house waste and feed lots. Very active with the Marinette County Wellness Committee. Several projects in the works for this summer: Lee Veriha, Rusch Farms, Hoffman Farms, and Giese Farms.
 - Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist ~ mailed out a Nutrient Management Letter to 80 farmers and Nutrient Management Planners to make sure the implementation of the Nutrient Management Plans are being

followed correctly. Working on the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Annual Reports and the 2018 funding grant.

16. JANUARY SCHEDULE OF VOUCHERS
The January Schedule of Invoices (\$3,153.01) was presented to the committee.
17. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2017 at 9:00 am in the Land Information Conference Room.
18. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING
 - Land Information Committee assignment to the Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
 - Date and location of annual summer committee meeting out in the county.
19. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION (Polzin/Holley) to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Motion carried no negative vote.

Respectfully Submitted



Aleta DiRienzo
Database Specialist/Program Assistant

DATCP REPORT

March 2017

Annual Reporting on Conservation Activities

- **REMINDER:** Counties are asked to complete their annual report on conservation accomplishments for 2016 by **March 22** this year to help facilitate the more timely compilation and release of the 2016 Land and Water Conservation Annual Report. The report can be accessed at [this link](#).¹ If you have any questions, or have trouble using the reporting tool, please contact Coreen Fallat at coreen.fallat@wisconsin.gov or Lisa Trumble at lisa.trumble@wisconsin.gov.

Soil and Water Resource Management Grants (SWRM)

- The 2018 Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant Application was sent to the counties and other project cooperators in late January. Email applications to datcpswrms@wisconsin.gov by April 17, 2017.
- There will be a SWRM training on March 9 covering the SWRM application, electronic signing, cost share grants, staff and support grants and introducing a new change order form. An email with details on how to sign up for this web-based training will be sent out shortly.

Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) and Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plans

- The 2017 Annual Workplan Template was e-mailed to counties on January 30, 2017. Deadline for returning the workplan is April 17, 2017, the same as the deadline for the SWRM Grant application. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Trumble at lisa.trumble@wisconsin.gov.
- The next LWCB meeting will be Tuesday, April 4th. Among other agenda items, the LWCB will hear a presentation from DNR on the Multi Discharger Variance program, which was recently approved by the EPA.

Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs)

- Petitions for Agricultural Enterprise Areas are now being accepted. Petition materials, including instructions and forms, are available on our [website](#).² Completed petitions will be due in early June 2017. Petitions must be completed jointly by local landowners and local government officials. Petitioners should notify Natalie Cotter at natalie.cotter@wisconsin.gov of their intent to apply, and to receive announcements of upcoming workshops and webinars to assist with petition development.

Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants (PLWPG)

- The ATCP 52 final draft rule was approved by the DATCP board on December 21, the Governor on January 24 and is submitted in final draft form to the legislature.

Conservation Engineering

- With the recent change of the VTA standard, constructing a roof over a feed lot could be an alternative to a VTA to address barnyard runoff issues. It is important to remember that all roof designs must be certified by a licensed engineer or architect. The engineer/architect must also certify the construction as-built. Please note that the roof design must also be “accepted” by someone with 367 “Roofs and Covers” job approval/certification. This person is qualified to review the design utilizing the roofs checklist/job sheet that can be found [here](#).³

Farmland Preservation

- The total farmland preservation credits paid in tax year 2015 by county are now available and has been attached to this report. Please contact Alison Volk with questions; Alison.Volk@wi.gov, 608-224-4634.

¹ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016WIConservation>

² https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AEAPetitionInfo.aspx

³ [https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WI/367_WI_JS-\(2013-12\).pdf](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WI/367_WI_JS-(2013-12).pdf)

Nutrient Management

- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) 2018 funding is now available on the [program website](#).⁴ Applications are due on April 17, 2017.

ATCP 50, Soil and Water Resource Management

- The department completed administrative rule public hearings in January and the comment period closed on February 9. People attending the hearings included 19 people in Eau Claire, 32 in Platteville, 13 in Appleton, and 15 in Madison. Five people publically testified and 13 comments were received from those that did not attend a hearing. Staff are reviewing the comments and hope to have a final draft of the rule to the ATCP Board at their May 25 meeting.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- The updated state CREP Agreement (LWR-283) form and instructions sheet is now available on the DATCP [CREP website](#).⁵ All CREP agreements that have associated CRP-1 start dates of 3/1/2017 or later are required to use the updated state CREP form.
- Interested in a local CREP training on CREP basics, county CREP responsibilities, and available tools? Contact Brian Loeffelholz, Brian.Loeffelholz@wisconsin.gov, to set one up or if you have other CREP-related questions.
- FSA is accepting applications for reenrollment of CREP agreements expiring September 30, 2017. This is a change from the previously expected April 2017 start date for reenrollment. In December FSA also sent a general notification letter to all landowners with CREP CRP-1's expiring in 2017 explaining their options.

Agricultural Impacts Statements (AIS)

- The AIS team submitted comments on the potential indirect effects of the corridor alternatives identified by WisDOT for the I-39/90/94 Madison to Portage Study at the end of February. The corridor alternatives proposed an expansion of the existing interstate as well as 4 alternative new highways which would connect I-90, east of Sun Prairie and I-39/90/94, south of Portage. As of February 28, 2017, the Wisconsin DOT and the Federal Highway Administration decided to officially end the corridor study due to a reprioritization of transportation project. The comments submitted by DATCP are able to be viewed on the [AIS webpage](#).⁶

Livestock Facility Siting Review Board (LFSRB)

- The LFSRB will hold an annual informational meeting on Friday, March 31st.

Other

- **Midwest Region Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast Technical Workgroup:** On March 8-9, 2017, DATCP will be hosting a meeting of agency and university representatives from Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio along with staff from the National Weather Service River Forecast Center in Chanhassen, MN. The goal is to share information and experiences regarding development of runoff risk advisory forecast tools in each of the states. This will be the first gathering of this group, laying the groundwork for future collaboration as each state continues to refine their specific forecast tool.
- PSC, DNR and DATCP were invited by the Kewaunee County Board to answer questions regarding the Integrated Anaerobic Digester System Request for Proposals (RFP) on February 20, 2017 in Luxemburg. The [RFP and application template](#)⁷ can be found on the PSC website. The application deadline has been extended to **July 3, 2017** based on feedback from the informational seminar held on February 1, 2017. Questions should be directed to the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence at OEI@wisconsin.gov.

⁴ https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/NMFEGrants.aspx

⁵ https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/CREPCounties.aspx

⁶ https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AISHwyProjects.aspx

⁷ <http://psc.wi.gov/biogas/documents/IntegratedADRFP.pdf>

FARMLAND CREDITS BY COUNTY

Payments in state FY16 primarily for tax year 2015 claims

County	Old Law - Schedule FPC			New Law - Schedule FPC-A		
	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage
ADAMS	s	s	s	m	m	m
ASHLAND	s	s	s	s	s	s
BARRON	29	24,486	6,825	213	362,570	47,940
BAYFIELD	s	s	s	s	s	s
BROWN	37	13,869	6,053	547	599,539	78,532
BUFFALO	29	33,945	9,203	s	s	s
BURNETT	s	s	s	m	m	m
CALUMET	s	s	s	220	272,930	35,332
CHIPPEWA	12	4,849	2,127	16	16,144	2,393
CLARK	15	12,596	3,117	177	253,559	38,352
COLUMBIA	59	34,680	9,836	654	990,210	130,384
CRAWFORD	26	28,518	7,632	66	106,939	14,478
DANE	168	84,253	23,833	1,198	1,596,725	209,173
DODGE	77	69,010	11,769	491	689,184	88,625
DOOR	m	m	m	39	37,623	4,963
DOUGLAS	s	s	s	s	s	s
DUNN	15	12,809	3,734	55	116,133	14,831
EAU CLAIRE	11	9,702	1,754	168	282,771	37,036
FLORENCE	s	s	s	s	s	s
FOND DU LAC	62	34,307	7,731	760	1,096,430	144,766
FOREST	s	s	s	s	s	s
GRANT	58	26,311	10,624	408	720,233	96,020
GREEN	48	37,312	10,323	58	66,078	9,179
GREEN LAKE	14	8,957	4,906	177	278,128	37,279
IOWA	39	25,860	9,489	586	1,023,401	135,695
JACKSON	s	s	s	s	s	s
JEFFERSON	15	6,308	1,496	563	711,004	93,362
JUNEAU	s	s	s	s	s	s
KENOSHA	s	s	s	m	m	m
KEWAUNEE	62	29,500	9,826	449	573,650	76,322
LA CROSSE	16	8,086	3,045	210	365,723	47,224
LAFAYETTE	35	30,921	7,230	259	457,230	58,971
LANGLADE	s	s	s	167	329,989	37,097
LINCOLN	s	s	s	s	s	s
MANITOWOC	49	26,449	7,112	661	803,113	106,241
MARATHON	46	26,449	8,819	182	304,324	40,880
MARINETTE	s	s	s	s	s	s
MARQUETTE	s	s	s	29	66,007	8,482
MILWAUKEE	s	s	s	11	10,502	1,388
MONROE	16	9,653	2,957	16	28,866	4,389
OCONTO	12	6,973	1,896	m	m	m
ONEIDA	s	s	s	s	s	s

OUTAGAMIE	29	11,495	3,277	319	383,161	50,546
OZAUKEE	25	8,129	3,172	63	77,064	10,191
PEPIN	11	6,272	3,002	m	m	m
PIERCE	16	14,829	3,297	17	21,969	2,951
POLK	m	m	m	12	18,598	3,110
PORTAGE	m	m	m	18	20,207	2,693
PRICE	s	s	s	s	s	s
RACINE	s	s	s	26	31,692	4,133
RICHLAND	40	28,144	9,276	292	521,337	68,441
ROCK	40	27,420	4,753	545	874,942	114,098
RUSK	s	s	s	s	s	s
ST CROIX	17	11,632	4,266	125	176,914	23,348
SAUK	45	31,136	8,062	377	595,486	78,658
SAWYER	s	s	s	s	s	s
SHAWANO	36	20,925	6,878	226	271,662	35,769
SHEBOYGAN	62	30,360	6,957	344	445,546	59,169
TAYLOR	s	s	s	s	s	s
TREMPEALEAU	83	55,104	16,589	18	22,880	3,085
VERNON	36	27,728	6,396	104	137,709	17,794
VILAS	s	s	s	s	s	s
WALWORTH	21	10,239	3,480	268	386,904	49,545
WASHBURN	s	s	s	s	s	s
WASHINGTON	21	5,705	3,138	50	60,189	7,920
WAUKESHA	26	12,453	4,281	53	69,110	8,829
WAUPACA	15	8,685	2,081	124	198,911	26,400
WAUSHARA	s	s	s	m	m	m
WINNEBAGO	23	5,625	3,658	78	95,521	12,423
WOOD	m	m	m	13	24,065	3,351
Total	1,630	1,042,051	291,772	11,746	17,014,924	2,238,286



UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS

- March 1 Annual farmland preservation rezone report due to DATCP
Last day to register for Wisconsin Envirothon
- March 3 Application deadline for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to NRCS
- March 15 Board of Directors' meeting in Elkhart Lake
Area association meetings at Annual Conference
- March 15-17 WI Land+Water Annual Conference in Elkhart Lake and business meeting
- March 22 Annual reporting of county conservation activities due to DATCP
- March 29 Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters' Lobby Day in Madison
- March 31 ***Applications due for Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program grants***
- April 3 ***Conservation Employee Training at DATCP***
- April 5 ***North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program's Professional Development Program proposals due***
- April 7 WI Envirothon in Rosholt
- April 13 Legislative/Administrative Committee meeting
- April 15 2018 Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grants applications due to DATCP
- April 17 ***2018 project application deadline for Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Program AND Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Management Planning Projects due***
Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) grant applications due to DATCP
2017 Annual Workplan due to DATCP
- April 21 ***Project pre-applications due for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to NRCS***
- April 28 ***Applications due for Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust's (WWCT) grants due to DNR***
- May 1 Proposals due for Clean Water and Renewable Energy Request
- May 18 ***Executive Committee meeting in Portage***
Southern Area Association meeting
- May 19 ***Lake Michigan Area Land and Water Conservation Association meeting***
- May 25 ***North Central Area Association Reorganization/Spring meeting (date changed from May 18)***
- June 9 ***Northwestern Area Association meeting***
- June 10 ***Petitions due to DATCP for new Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) designations***



WISCONSIN LAND+WATER

For more information or questions, please contact
Penny Pohle at penny@wisconsinlandwater.org or (608) 441-2677 Ext. 6



WISCONSIN LAND+WATER

(608) 441-2677 <http://wisconsinlandwater.org/>

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WI Land+Water) is a membership organization that supports the efforts of land conservation committee (LCC) supervisors and conservation staff through training, conservation standards development, youth education, grants, partnership building, and advocacy.

WI LAND+WATER STAFF

Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director (jim@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Lead Wisconsin Land+Water and is responsible to the WI Land+Water President and Board of Directors
- ◆ Manage day-to-day affairs of the association, budget development, financial management, policy advocacy and communication with agency's partners, elected officials, and other organizations

Christina Anderson, Program Initiatives Coordinator (christina@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Work with the State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) to develop and provide training
- ◆ Work with the Outreach Committee to promote WI Land+Water and its members
- ◆ Coordinate pilot project with DNR and local stakeholders to assess nitrate transport in wellhead protection areas in three demonstration areas

Kate Brunner, Food, Land & Water Coordinator (kate@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Support the stakeholder committee and plan the Food, Land & Water Conference

Penny Pohle, Conservation Training & Membership Services Coordinator (penny@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Coordinate member services including maintaining a statewide directory of county staff and land conservation committees
- ◆ Work closely with area associations and be their point person at WI Land+Water
- ◆ Work with State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) to develop and provide training
- ◆ Develop and maintain area association webpages on WI Land+Water website

Chris Schlutt, Training & Outreach Program Coordinator (chris@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Plan and execute the annual conference
- ◆ Work with the State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM) to develop and provide training
- ◆ Create and collect material for Land Conservation Committee (LCC) supervisor training; coordinate LCC trainings

Jennifer Thieme, Standards Oversight Council (SOC) Program Manager (jennifer@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Manages the activities of the Standards Oversight Council and their team approach for revising and developing technical standards for soil and water conservation programs in Wisconsin
- ◆ Work with WI Land+Water Technical Committee and serve as a liaison between WI Land+Water membership and state agencies for technical standard related issues

Kim Warkentin, Operations Manager/Youth Education Director (kim@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Manage the operations of the organization
- ◆ Point person for Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and business and county conservationist meetings
- ◆ Direct the Youth and Education programs including poster and speaking contests, Wisconsin Envirothon, Conservation Camps, and the Land+Water Conservation Initiative in coordination with the Youth Education Committee

Kayla Zacharias, Communications Specialist (kayla@wisconsinlandwater.org)

- ◆ Promote land and water success stories, outreach opportunities

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wisconsin County Executives, Administrators, Administrative Coordinators, Board Chairs, Supervisors, Clerks, Treasurers, and Finance Directors

FROM: Kyle Christianson, Directors of Government Affairs

DATE: February 21, 2017

SUBJECT: Dark Stores Resolutions

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) is working in partnership with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities to address a property assessment strategy employed by big box retailers throughout the country and the state.

The strategy, commonly referred to as "Dark Store," is being successfully used by commercial businesses to significantly reduce their property tax assessments. In many cases, assessments have been reduced by half following retailer challenges. This creates a financial challenge for municipalities and counties as well as places additional burden on residential homeowners who are being forced to compensate for lost commercial property taxes.

WCA is requesting that your county pass a resolution calling on the Governor and Legislature to address this unfair assessment issue. Attached you will find a **PDF copy** and a **Word copy** of the model resolution for your convenience. We would appreciate your support on this issue and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

County Board Resolution

Approved this ____ Day of _____, 2017 by

_____ County

Supporting Efforts to Close Commercial Property Assessment Loopholes

WHEREAS, homeowners in Wisconsin already pay 70% of the total statewide property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate burden is about to get much worse unless the Legislature addresses tax avoidance strategies that national chains like Walgreens, and big box establishments like Target and Lowe's are using across the country to gain dramatic reductions in their property tax bills at the expense of homeowners and other taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a carefully-orchestrated wave of hundreds of lawsuits in Wisconsin is forcing assessors to slash the market value of thriving national retail stores, shifting their tax burden to local mom and pop shops and homeowners; and

WHEREAS, Walgreens and CVS stores in Wisconsin have argued in communities across the state that the assessed value of their property for property tax purposes should be less than half of their actual sale prices on the open market; and

WHEREAS, in many cases the courts have sided with Walgreens and CVS, requiring communities to refund tax revenue back to the stores; and

WHEREAS, there are over 200 Walgreens stores located in Wisconsin; and.

WHEREAS, Target, Lowes, Meijer, Menards and other big box chains are using what is known as the "Dark Store Theory" to argue that the assessed value of a new store in a thriving location should be based on comparing their buildings to sales of vacant stores in abandoned locations for a different market segment; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Legislature has on two occasions in the last two years overwhelmingly passed legislation prohibiting assessors from valuing new big box stores the same as nearby abandoned stores from a different market segment; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State House overwhelmingly passed similar legislation in May of 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that _____ County does hereby urge the Governor and State Legislature to protect homeowners and main street businesses from having even more of the property tax burden shifted to them by passing legislation clarifying that:

1. Leases are appropriately factored into the valuation of leased properties; and
2. When using the comparable sale method of valuation, assessors shall consider as comparable only those sales within the same market segment exhibiting a similar highest and best use rather than similarly sized but vacant properties in abandoned locations.

Schedule of Invoices ~ February 2017

VENDOR	VENDOR NAME	ORG	ACCOUNT DESC	AMOUNT	FULL DESC
2809	CENTURYLINK	51710000	TELEPHONE	50.60	CENTURYLINK/SPEEDPAY A#5991 1/17/17 bill
2809	CENTURYLINK	51710000	TELEPHONE	2.37	CENTURYLINK/SPEEDPAY A#7735 1/31/17 bill date
96	UNITED MAILING SERVI	51710000	POSTAGE	132.85	January 1/1-1/31/17 postage
6365	MARINETTE CO CLERK	51710000	POSTAGE	0.79	January postage
96	UNITED MAILING SERVI	56170000	POSTAGE	21.80	January 1/1-1/31/17 postage
80822	NOLL, MARY	56171000	SALARIES-PER DIEM	168.13	Meetings mileage and per diem
1816	TANDY LEATHER FACTOR	56173000	EQUIP & MATERIALS ACQUISITION	275.14	TANDY LEATHER FACTORY ~ Leathercraft for Sand Lake
738	WI PUBLIC SERVICE	56270000	UTILITIES	61.29	A#0403120998-00035 1/18/17 bill date
361	WI LAND CONSERVATION	56270000	DUES/REGISTRATION & TUITION	825.00	WLWCA conf GGS PBK Engel
382	LMLWCA	56270000	DUES/REGISTRATION & TUITION	150.00	2017 Annual Dues
709	ENVIRONMENT FOR THE	56270000	EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES	45.45	ENVIRONMENT FOR THE AMERICAS ~ Posters for IMBD
762	CELLCOM	56300000	TELEPHONE	300.35	CELLCOM ~ Jan Cell phone
2809	CENTURYLINK	56300000	TELEPHONE	96.13	CENTURYLINK/SPEEDPAY A#5991 1/17/17 bill
2809	CENTURYLINK	56300000	TELEPHONE	18.93	CENTURYLINK/SPEEDPAY A#7735 1/31/17 bill date
96	UNITED MAILING SERVI	56300000	POSTAGE	178.82	January 1/1-1/31/17 postage
1347	PP*INSTITUTE FOR WIS	56300000	EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES	30.00	PP*FRIENDS OF PHEASANT ~ Phenology Calendars
1899	ESRI INC	51760000	SOFTWARE	5,800.00	ESRI ~ INV 93237916 GIS Maint.
TOTAL				8,157.65	