

Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 12, 2023 | 10:00am – noon | Zoom

<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Notes/Follow-up</u>
Call to Order	<p>WSC Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tracy Hames- Dan Helsel- Paul Kent- Tim Andryk- Matt Howard- Stacy Jepson- Carol McCoy <p>Other participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jennifer Western Hauser- Tom Nedland- Josh Brown- Allison Willman- Marty Dillenburg- Ryan Pappas
Public Comment	No public comments received
Agenda Approval	Decision: Agenda approved
Board Minutes Approval	Decision: Minutes approved
Council Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No recommendations to the Council thus far• DNR staff interested in submitting a memo to Secretary's with a list of recommendations• Council to connect with Jordan Lamb of The Welch Group
Bill Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council process for providing legislative input<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Interest in providing 2023-24 legislature with summary of WSC role and actions, suggestion to write one-pager summary to share.○ Suggestion to meet with Environmental Committees during each legislative session.• Assured delineator bill<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Senator Cowles' Office planning to discuss at March WSC meeting. <p>Action Items</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule short WSC meeting in February to review draft one-pager for legislature.
General Permit Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GP1 – wetland fill for res/com/ind development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At pre-public notice stage – DNR requesting Council review comments by end of January. GP-1 surcharge fee proposal discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees used for wetland restoration projects, chosen by DNR through an application process with project scoring and ranking Fees only required for projects approved through GP1 that do not require mitigation. Questions regarding whether the proposed fees would cover the cost of restoring wetlands impacted through General Permit 1 over time Fees have not been updated annually because they are tied to the GP1 process, and DNR currently intends to update fees every 5 years when the permit expires or whenever GP1 is updated, if sooner than 5 years. Council suggests revisiting the discussion after the GP1 public comment period. DNR requesting Council review comments by end of January. <p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council members provide feedback to DNR on GP1 draft permit and fee proposal by end of January.
Integrated Watershed Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision – use information from veteran DNR staff interviews for DNR training, WSC recommendations, etc. Suggestion to develop a pilot partnership between DNR staff and a municipality to determine how DNR Waterways, Stormwater, and Water Quality Programs could develop best practices. Suggestion to identify work tasks to address the training needs and statutory changes identified through DNR staff interviews. <p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify work tasks for training needs and statutory/Council recommendations Consider pilot partnership between a municipality and DNR water regulatory programs to develop best practices.
New business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GP16 for wetlands incidental to construction is a permit with very little use in the last 3 years, and artificial exemption may have taken most of the demand or need for this general permit. DNR to provide summary at next meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR Waterways Bureau planning a reorganization of staff and staff roles. DNR to provide update at next meeting.
Future business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting, 3/9/23, 9:00 – 11:00 am.