



**DRAFT**

Walworth County  
Land Conservation Committee  
**Monday, October 18, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Walworth County Government Center  
County Board Room 114  
Elkhorn, WI 53121**

*Dan Kilkenny – Chair, Jerry Grant - Vice Chair*

*Randy Hawkins - Supervisor*

*Donald Henningfeld – USDA/FSA Representative, Dorothy C. Burwell – Citizen Member*

***(Posted in Compliance with Sec. 19.84 Wis. Stats.)***

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of minutes from September 20, 2010 LCC Meeting
5. Public Comment
6. Discussion/Possible Action –Crop Prices determined for Wildlife Abatement Claims, USDA/APHIS, David Terrall
7. Discussion/Possible Action – Price County Resolution No. 37-10- Supporting the Legislative Council Study on Managed Forest Land Program; referred from Walworth County Board of Supervisors. Michael Cotter (enclosure, page 1)
8. Discussion/Possible Action – 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference Business Meeting Registration and Proxy Form. Louise Olson (enclosure, pages 2–10)
9. Discussion/Possible Action – WLWCA Recommended Bylaw Amendments. Dorothy Burwell (enclosure, pages 11-16)
10. Discussion/Possible Action – Farmland Preservation Plan Update. Fay U Amerson, (enclosure, pages 17-20)
11. Next Meeting Date
12. Adjournment

**It is possible that a quorum of the County Board or a committee of the County Board could be in attendance.**

Submitted by: Michael P. Cotter, Director, Land Use and Resource Management Department  
Louise Olson, Deputy Director, Land Conservation Committee Designee

Posted: October 13, 2010

## Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

### MINUTES

**DRAFT**

Monday, September 20, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

Walworth County Board Room 114  
Elkhorn, WI 53121

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The meeting was called to order by LCC Chair Kilkenny at 1:30 p.m.

Roll call - Committee members present included: Supervisors Kilkenny, Hawkins and Grant, Citizen Member Burwell, and USDA/FSA Representative Henningfeld. A quorum was declared.

County staff present – David Bretl, County Administrator; Michael Cotter, Director of Land Use & Resource Management (LURM); Louise Olson, Deputy Director, LURM; Fay Amerson, Urban Manager, LURM; Neal Frauenfelder, Sr. Planner, LURM; and Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary.

Also in attendance – Nancy Russell, Walworth County Board Chair, Carl Redenius, Walworth County Board Supervisor, Kathy Ingersoll, Walworth County Board Supervisor, Greg Igl, USDA NRCS, David Terrall, USDA/APHIS, Chip Lovell, USDA/APHIS, Terry Papcke, Walworth County Farm Bureau, and Kathleen Papcke, Walworth County Farm Bureau.

Approval of the Agenda – **Supervisors Hawkins and Grant moved and seconded approval of the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of the Minutes – **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Grant moved and seconded approval of the July 19, 2010 LCC meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comment – Citizen Member Burwell said she was invited to attend the NRCS Legacy of Conservation, in celebrating 75 years of helping people help the land, September 29 at Madison UW Memorial Theater. She will be unable to attend but has the information for anyone interested.

Item 6, 2011 Wildlife Abatement Program Budget, David Terrall, USDA/APHIS was passed over, since Mr Terrall had not yet arrived from Waupun.

Farmland Preservation Plan Map Direction – Neal Frauenfelder explained the Farmland Preservation Area Map that was created using A-1 Zoning districts which was the baseline chosen by the LCC. One map showed the green areas which are currently zoned A-1. On the other Farmland Preservation Area map, the areas are shown in brown and red. The red areas identified inconsistencies between what is zoned A-1 and what is shown on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Comp Plan). Most of the red areas are close to other developed areas or planned for development between now and 2035. Several hundred acres are no longer in private hands and are owned by the state. Also, about 70% of the red areas were never in farmland preservation. Mr. Frauenfelder laid out possible options and good and bad points of each. Mr. Frauenfelder said the committee is not limited to the options he laid out

- Option 1 – Leave the A-1 zoned areas that are not consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (red areas) as designated Farmland Preservation Areas. Advantages are that it allows landowners to be eligible for farmland preservation tax credit (including red areas); allows landowner to be part of an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA); is consistent with the direction of the Smart Growth Technical Advisory Committee (no mass rezones) and included in the Comp Plan. Disadvantages are the landowner would have to pay the conversion fee if A-1 land was rezoned to a zoning district consistent with Comp Plan designation. Also, the Farmland Preservation Area Map would not be completely consistent with the Comp Plan land use map.
- Option 2 – Remove all the areas inconsistent (red areas) with the Comp Plan from the Farmland Preservation Map. Advantages are that the landowner will not have to pay a conversion fee for rezoning and the farmland Preservation Area Map will be more consistent with the Comp Plan map. It is possible the state could ask that more be done to eliminate inconsistencies. Disadvantages are that

the landowners whose land is inconsistent with Comp Plan would not be eligible for Farmland Preservation tax credits; could not be part of an AEA; the towns and county could have to rezone those inconsistent areas even if the landowner has no intention to develop the land; and a mass rezone would be required at significant cost of towns and county.

- Option 3 – Give the option to the individual landowners whose land is inconsistent with the Farmland Preservation Area Map, asking them if they would like to be included in Farmland Preservation area. Advantages to this option are, the landowner can choose between being eligible for farmland preservation tax credit by leaving their land in the Farmland Preservation Area Map and the A-1 Zoning District or avoid the conversion fee by having their land removed from the Farmland Preservation Area Map and allowing the town and county to rezone their land out of the A-1 zoning district. Disadvantages include the need for a massive rezone at significant cost to towns and county; the decision on whether or not to be in the Farmland Preservation area would be influenced by the conversion fee rather than long range land use concerns and could result in haphazard land use patterns; and it may trigger landowners outside the areas of inconsistency to request the same option of choosing to be removed from Farmland Preservation area map and rezoned out of the A-1 zoning district

Chair Kilkenny who was on the smart growth technical advisory committee said Option 1 seems to follow their committee's findings more closely than the other options. It is more consistent with smart growth. The conversion fee is set by the State and not by the County. Chair Kilkenny also said he assumes those farming still want to have the low real estate tax. **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Grant moved and seconded choosing Option 1.** Discussion followed. Supervisor Grant asked when the Farmland Preservation Plan must be done. Mr. Frauenfelder said December 31, 2011 and reminded it had to go to public hearing in October and to county board prior to the December date. Mr. Frauenfelder also said the Comp Plan inconsistencies could be addressed when it is updated in about 6 years. **Motion carried 5-0.**

2011 Wildlife Abatement Program Budget. David Terrall, USDA/APHIS – Mr. Terrall said the wildlife damage program is a state program with funds passing through the county to cost share abatement techniques such as deer fencing to recipients that qualify. Walworth County has 5 participants. Of those, 4 for deer damage have been taken care of with fencing made available by APHIS. There is only one crop payment so far for goose damage. Supervisor Grant asked if a cost share recipient with an area posted with "No Hunting" signs must allow public hunting. Mr. Terrall said public hunting must be allowed or designated hunters must be listed. Mr. Lowell, USDA/APHIS added that the ratio is 2 hunters per 40 huntable acres. The reason is that the program is paid for by hunter dollars through a \$2.00 surcharge and additional doe tags of \$12.00 each (non-CWD areas). Supervisor Grant asked if the county administrative fee of \$250. is sufficient for processing the paperwork. Ms. Olson indicated it was sufficient and is in the 2011 budget. **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Grant moved and seconded to approve the 2011 Wildlife Abatement Program Budget as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Next Meeting Date – Monday, October 18, 2010, 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment – **On motion and second by Supervisor Grant and USDA/FSA Representative Henningfeld, Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

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Submitted by Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary. Minutes are not considered final until approved by the committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 37-10

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY ON MFL PROGRAM  
Legislative Study Reviewing the Managed Forest Land Program

WHEREAS, Federal, State and County Forest along with property in the Managed Forest Land (MFL) program make up 49% of Price County; and

WHEREAS, the loss of revenue and compensation to counties where counties receive 20% or .33/acre of the acreage share payment on MFL closed and .13/acre on MFL open for a total of \$58,968.94 compared to \$942,111.70 (total assessed value x mil rate); and

WHEREAS, there is an increase in property being enrolled in MFL program, (270,000 acres privately owned forest land with 120,000 currently signed up for MFL), as real estate taxes rise therefore shifting the tax burden to the residential and commercial properties; and

WHEREAS, nothing is paid toward the school levies by properties in the MFL program; and

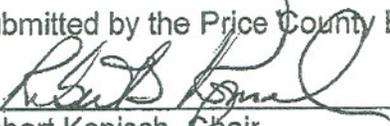
WHEREAS, currently property taxes do not have to be **paid in full** on a parcel that a cutting permit is being issued. To prevent tax delinquency after timber is harvested, taxes should be paid in full prior to cutting permit issuance; and

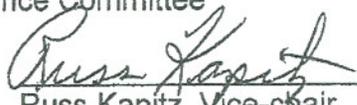
WHEREAS, buildings located on managed forest lands are taxed as personal property buildings on leased land rather than real estate,

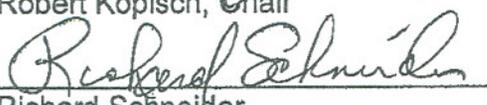
NOW THEREFORE BE IT that the Price County Board of Supervisors support the Legislative Council study of the MFL program.

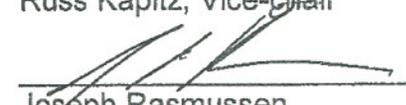
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to Representative Fred Clark, Chairman; Representative Don Friske, Vice-Chairman; Senator Jim Holperin, Mark Abeles-Alison, Bayfield County Administrator and Dean Pelkey, Packaging Corporation of America (northern representatives on the committee). Dated this 29th day of July, 2010.

Submitted by the Price County Executive/Finance Committee

  
Robert Kopisch, Chair

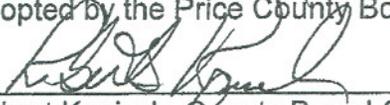
  
Russ Kapitz, Vice-chair

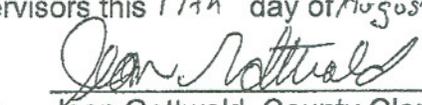
  
Richard Schneider

  
Joseph Rasmussen

  
John Walasek

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of August, 2010

  
Robert Kopisch, County Board Chair

  
Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For 12 Against 0

# WLWCA's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## December 9-10 at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

### Conference Schedule At-A-Glance

#### Thursday, December 9

8:00am-6:00pm	Registration
8:00am-11:00am	Silent Auction Item Drop-off
8:45am-9:45am	WLWCA Board of Directors Meeting
10:00am-11:30am	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Welcome from WLWCA President Charles Wagner</li> <li>✓ WLWCA Accomplishments and Resolutions Preview</li> <li>✓ Keynote Address from NACD CEO Jeff Eisenberg</li> </ul>
10:00am-4:00pm	Spouse Tour
11:45am-1:30pm	Lunch with Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, President of the Wisconsin Archeological Society
1:30pm-6:00pm	Silent Auction Open
1:45pm-3:00pm	Breakout Sessions
3:00pm-3:15pm	Refreshment Break – Visit Silent Auction
3:15pm-4:00pm	Area Association Meetings and Resolutions Discussion
4:30pm	Hotel Check-in
4:45pm-6:15pm	Networking Reception – Visit Silent Auction
6:15pm-9:45pm	Dinner Banquet, Speaking Contest Winners Presentation and Awards Ceremony

#### Friday, December 10

7:00am-8:30am	Registration
7:00am-10:00am	Silent Auction Item Pickup
7:00am-8:00am	Hot Breakfast Buffet
8:15am-9:30am	Breakout Sessions
9:30am-10:00am	WLWCA Business Meeting Registration Open
10:00am-12:00pm	WLWCA Business Meeting

Enter the Youth Education Raffle to win a custom fishing rod from La Crosse County's Gregg Stangl or a \$300 gift certificate to Cabela's Sporting Goods!



## Keynote Speaker: National Association of Conservation Districts CEO Jeff Eisenberg

Prior to joining NACD in February, Eisenberg served as Executive Director for the Public Lands Council representing ranchers before Congress and the Executive Branch on a variety of natural resource issues. He has also represented the Klamath Water Users' Association, The Nature Conservancy, and the US Forest Service, NRCS, Farm Service Agency and the Office of Energy in the USDA's Office of General Counsel.

Raised in Minneapolis, Minn., Eisenberg holds a bachelor's degree in Scandinavian Studies and Political Science from the University of Minnesota and a juris doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

## Session and Event Descriptions

### Thursday, December 9

10:00am-11:30am

#### Opening Session, Keynote Address by NACD CEO Jeff Eisenberg

Welcome by WLWCA President **Charles Wagner**. A local post will present the color guard. Then WLWCA Executive Director **Julian Zelazny** will present the 2010 annual report and review proposed resolutions for adoption at the WLWCA business meeting. The session closes with the keynote address from **Jeff Eisenberg**, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

11:45am-1:30pm

#### Lunch Presentation

**Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt** recently retired from a 30-year career of public archaeology in Wisconsin and is the current President of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society. Ernie will summarize the 12,000+ years of state archaeological records, including examples from the Wisconsin Dells area.

1:45pm-3:00pm

#### Breakout Sessions – Please indicate your top choice on your registration form.

- ✓ **Adapting to Climate Change in Wisconsin - Strategies for Conservation Professionals:** The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) has identified future climate impacts and adaptation strategies for Wisconsin's land and water resources. Statewide Extension Specialist **David Liebl** will discuss how natural resource managers can prepare to meet the challenges of our changing climate.
- ✓ **Communicating with Your Legislator:** The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) works with conservation-minded citizens and organizations to lobby for a coordinated legislative agenda of shared priorities. **Jennifer Giegerich**, WLCV's capitol liaison, will help you learn how to use your knowledge and personal relationships to effectively communicate with state legislators.
- ✓ **LCC Orientation Session 1:** Geared toward newer LCC supervisors, this session begins with an overview of WLWCA and its relationship with counties and partner agencies by Executive Director **Julian Zelazny**. DATCP's **Dennis Presser** will then describe the statutory relationship between the department and counties as well as an overview of DATCP's programs.
- ✓ **Proposed Revisions to NR151 and Implications for DNR and DATCP Programs:** This session will review the changes being proposed to Chapter NR 151 that are relevant to agriculture. DNR's **John Pfender** and DATCP's **Jim Vanden Brook** will discuss how these changes are likely to affect DNR and DATCP programs at the state and local level.
- ✓ **USDA-NRCS Federal Cost-Share Forestry Programs:** NRCS State Forester **Gregory Rebman** will discuss cost-share programs available for non-industrial private forest landowners.

## Session and Event Descriptions

3:15pm-4:00pm

### Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board Candidate Speeches

Listen and question the candidates for the state Land and Water Conservation Board. The state LWCB is a joint body of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; the Department of Natural Resources; and the Department of Administration. WLWCA members will choose three candidates to represent county land conservation committees.

4:15pm-4:45pm

### Area Association Meetings and Resolutions Discussion

Counties meet within their area associations to discuss proposed resolutions.

6:15pm-9:45pm

### Dinner Banquet, Speaking Contest Winners Presentation and Awards Ceremony

Join us for dinner. Afterwards, we will hear the Wisconsin Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest Winners present their speeches and recognize the Conservation Farmer of the Year and the winner of the Outstanding Supervisor Award.

Friday, December 10

8:15am-9:30am

Breakout Sessions – Please indicate your top choice on your registration form.

- ✓ **Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species Management in Wisconsin:** Paul Skawinski, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator with Golden Sands RC&D, and Ted Ritter, Invasive Species Coordinator at Vilas County LWCD, will explore the common aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in Wisconsin and management efforts used to control them. Ted will also share his views on the role of LWCDs in coordinating multi-partner co-ops and bringing together resources. A few possible future species of concern will also be discussed.
- ✓ **LCC Orientation Session 2:** This session will include presentations by Tyrone Larson of NRCS and Gordon Stevenson from DNR. Both will provide overviews of their agencies' respective programs. This will be followed by Buffalo County Conservationist Julie Lindstrom who will discuss her county's streambank protection work which is being done in cooperation with NRCS, DNR, and area conservation groups.
- ✓ **Staffing Grant Roundtable:** Representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Land and Water Conservation Board, WLWCA and WALCE will be present for a roundtable discussion on the status of the staffing allocation grant and legislative efforts to fully fund the staffing formula.
- ✓ **Urban Stormwater Management:** Stormwater management planning in the coulee region presents many unique challenges for department staff. Developing an ordinance that effectively protects soil and water resources from storm water runoff requires innovative approaches and nontraditional techniques. Join Director Gregg Stangl and Conservation Specialist Mary Jo Webster from La Crosse County LCD to learn how La Crosse County developed a storm water management ordinance that goes beyond the urban epicenter to protect high-value natural resources where they occur.

10:00am-12:00pm

WLWCA Annual Business Meeting & Raffle Drawing

## Spouse Tour - Thursday, December 9, 10:00am-4:00pm



Join tour host Kelly Maginnis from Columbia County LCD for a fun and relaxing day in the Dells. Begin the day at Swiss Maid Fudge, where you will see fudge made the old world way, cooking over open-fire gas stoves using copper kettles and mixing on marble tables. Then enjoy lunch at River Walk Pub where you'll enjoy a scenic view of the Wisconsin River.

After lunch you will explore the H.H. Bennett Studio, the oldest operating business in the Dells. Photography historians consider Bennett one of the best landscape photographers of the 19th century, considered the "Golden Age of Landscape Photography." Today the studio continues to house many of Bennett's original photographs, glass plate negatives, photography inventions, cameras and equipment.

Shopping on Broadway Street is next, where you can find a charming resale shop, the Holiday House Gifts & Collectibles, a book store and much more. The day concludes at Tourdot Winery where you will enjoy a light snack while sampling their wines.



### Support WLWCA Youth & Education With Your Bid at the Annual Silent Auction and Raffle!

The silent auction and raffle are an annual effort of county land conservation committees, departments, statewide conservation agencies and nonprofits to fund WLWCA Youth and Education Programs.

The Silent Auction will be open Thursday afternoon for bidding.

Counties – Please bring at least one item Thursday morning for the silent auction that represents your county with a retail value of \$25 or more. The values of all donated items are deductible to the contributor.

WLWCA appreciates your contributions to our Youth and Education Programs. The Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contests are completely funded by the Annual Silent Auction and Raffle event, made possible by YOU! Thank you for your support!



Chula Vista Resort  
2501 River Road  
Wisconsin Dells,  
WI 53965

Phone: 608-254-8366

Group: WI Land and Water  
Conservation

Group Room Block:

\$70 single / \$92 double

Cutoff date for guaranteed rate:  
November 5<sup>th</sup>

# Registration Form

57<sup>th</sup> WLWCA Annual Conference ~ December 9-10, 2010

This form is available on line in a fillable PDF format for those who wish to submit electronically. To submit manually, please duplicate this form for multiple registrations or visit [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org) for an electronic copy of the registration form. Spouses use the same form as attendees. **Please send registrations by Friday, November 5, 2010! Extra fees will apply to registrations Emailed/faxed/postmarked after that date and for onsite registration.** Registrations are transferrable at any time. **Cancellations received on or before December 1 will be refunded minus a \$25 cancellation fee. Cancellations on or after December 2 will be refunded minus a \$25 cancellation fee and charges for all meal functions, including breaks. Cancellations or no-shows on or after December 8 will be liable for the entire conference fee. Due to covering pre-paid contracted costs, there are NO EXECPTIONS to the fee/cancellation schedule.**

All information is REQUIRED for complete registration.

Name (as you would like it on a name badge):

Spouse's Name (if attending):

County:

Affiliation/Organization:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

## Conference Fees & Breakout Session Choices

Full Conference

*Includes all sessions, events, meals and breaks.*

\$200

Thursday Breakout Sessions 1:45-3:00

Thursday Only

*Includes all Thursday sessions, events, meals and breaks.*

\$120

Climate Change

Friday Only

*Includes all Friday sessions, events, and breakfast.*

\$110

Communicating with Legislators

Two Day Spouse Registration

*Includes spouse tour, meals, and reception.*

\$85

LCC Orientation I

Two Day Spouse Registration, NO TOUR

*Includes meals, reception and breaks.*

\$75

NR 151 Revisions

Late Registration Fee

*For registrations Emailed, faxed or postmarked 11/6 to 12/6/2010.*

\$10

Federal Forestry Programs

Onsite Registration Fee

*For registrations on or after 12/7/ 2010.*

\$15

Friday Breakout Sessions 8:15-9:30

**TOTAL FEES: Please add up your total here.**

\$0

AIS/TIS

Special Dietary/Wellness Needs (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

I am going to the WLWCA Board of Directors Meeting

LCC Orientation 2

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check enclosed, payable to WLWCA, Inc.

Please invoice my organization for payment.

Keep a copy for your records!

Staffing Grant Roundtable

Urban Stormwater Management

**SUBMIT**

**CLEAR**

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Invoice/Receipt \_\_\_\_\_ Paid By \_\_\_\_\_ Notes \_\_\_\_\_ Entered \_\_\_\_\_

6



Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.  
702 East Johnson Street  
Madison, WI 53703-1533

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 1989

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association's**

# **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**December 9-10**

**Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells**

## 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference Volunteer Application

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association is currently seeking volunteers for the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference December 9-10 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

**All volunteers may take advantage of conference discounts!**

Space is limited! Sign-up today!

Planning Committee	Auction Coordinator	Spouse Tour Leader	Auction Assistants
8 volunteers, pre-conference only Deadline to apply June 18	1 volunteer both days plus pre-conference consultation Deadline to apply August 1	1 volunteer Thursday plus pre-conference consultation Deadline to apply August 1	6 volunteers Thursday 1 volunteer Friday 3 to 5½ hour shifts Deadline to Apply Oct 1
WLWCA meets with land conservation supervisors, staff and agencies via conference call two to three times between June and August to plan the conference agenda. Planning Committee members help create sessions and recruit speakers, working behind the scenes before the conference to craft a successful event.	WLWCA plans the Youth Education Silent and Live Auctions with a land conservation staff or agency volunteer that will schedule volunteers for the auctions and attend the entire conference to manage the auctions. Ideal candidates, are detail oriented, outgoing, willing to volunteer Thursday evening, and have experience with Microsoft Access.	Work with WLWCA and the Wisconsin Dells Visitor and Convention Bureau to set the spouse tour itinerary and spend the day as the spouse tour guide. Ideal candidates are punctual, friendly, flexible, comfortable handling cash and enjoy event planning.	Assist the Auction Leader with auction setup, maintenance, tallying bids and distribution. Ideal candidates are punctual, energetic, and are comfortable with people, digital cameras and data entry.
\$20 off each day of registration.	Waived registration and meals, free lodging, mileage reimbursed.* 2-day attendance required.	Waived registration and meals Thursday, free lodging Wednesday, mileage reimbursed.*	\$30 off registration for each day of volunteering.
AV Assistants	Registration Assistants	Moderators	Raffle Ticket Sales
5 volunteers both days Deadline to Apply Oct 1	3 volunteers Thursday 3 volunteers Friday 90 to 180 minute shifts Deadline to Apply Oct 1	8 volunteers Thursday 4 volunteers Friday 75-90 minute shifts Deadline to Apply Oct 1	4 volunteers from conference arrival Thursday to 10:00am Friday Deadline to Apply Oct 1**
WLWCA relies on land conservation departments and agencies to loan and set up laptops and data projectors for the conference. Ideal candidates are punctual, reliable, have permission to loan equipment to WLWCA, have equipment savvy and are comfortable leaving equipment locked in conference rooms overnight.	Help WLWCA staff register attendees, help LCC Chairs register to vote at the annual business meeting or help attendees pay for silent auction items on Friday. Ideal candidates are punctual, efficient, friendly and comfortable handling cash or voter registration forms.	Want to take advantage of all the conference has to offer, but still attend all the events? Consider moderating a session! Moderators check in with speakers before their assigned session to make sure they have everything they need to make their presentation. Moderators also introduce the speaker and help keep the presentations running on time. Ideal candidates are punctual and assertive.	Support WLWCA Youth Education programs by selling raffle tickets while networking with colleagues! Ideal candidates are outgoing, friendly, comfortable handling cash, and good at documenting sales. <u>Minimal record keeping required.</u>
\$40 off 2-day registration. 2-day registration only.	\$20 off registration for each day of volunteering.	\$10 off registration for each day of volunteering.	\$10 off Thursday registration.
*For these volunteers, WLWCA will pay for meals provided at the conference or at the spouse tour and lodging at the single room rate in the WLWCA room block Wednesday and/or Thursday if needed. Mileage is reimbursed at current State of Wisconsin reimbursement rates determined by the Office of State Employment Relations.			
**WLWCA Board and Staff will be selling raffle tickets in addition to the 4 volunteers.			

(8)

## Yes! I want to volunteer for the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone (for during the conference only): \_\_\_\_\_

### I plan to attend the conference:

- Both Days
- Thursday Only
- Friday Only

### Please rank your TOP 3 volunteering interests:

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ Planning Committee | _____ Auction Assistant      |
| _____ Auction Leader     | _____ Registration Assistant |
| _____ Spouse Tour Leader | _____ Moderator              |
| _____ AV Assistant       | _____ Raffle Ticket Sales    |

### I would be willing to volunteer both days:

- Yes  No

I understand that there are a limited number of volunteer positions available and that I may not be called on to volunteer if all the positions have been filled. If selected, I understand that WLWCA will send me a confirmation detailing my volunteer assignment and a coupon via Email to redeem my registration discount when I register for the WLWCA Annual Conference. I also understand that volunteers are still subject to the registration and cancellation deadlines outlined in the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference Registration Form and that I need to fill out a registration as an attendee in order to receive my discount.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org)

## Thank you for volunteering your support for WLWCA!



**Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.**

702 East Johnson Street · Madison, Wisconsin 53703-1533

Phone: (608) 441-2677 · Fax: (608) 441-2676 · Web site: [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org)

# Voting Proxy Form

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## 2010



WLWCA  
57th Annual Business Meeting  
Friday, December 10, 2010  
10:00 am  
Chula Vista Resort  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

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### KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENT

That the undersigned

Chair of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Land Conservation Committee

does hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_

as my official delegate who has authority to vote in my name at the annual meeting to be held on December 10, 2010 in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, with all power I should possess if personally present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(and date)

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Please complete this form if you are a member county in good standing and plan on attending the annual meeting, but LCC chair will not be in attendance. Return to WLWCA before the start of the business meeting.

**On or before December 3<sup>rd</sup> you may:**

Send by US Mail to WLWCA, 702 E. Johnson St. Madison, WI 53703-1533;  
Email scanned, signed copy to [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) or  
Fax to 608-441-2676.

**On or after December 4<sup>th</sup> and on or before December 6<sup>th</sup>,** you may still Email scanned, signed copy to [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) or Fax to 608-441-2676. No US Mail.

**On or after December 7<sup>th</sup>,** please bring to the registration table at the conference, fax to 608-254-7653 c/o Julian Zelazny, or send scanned, signed copy to [julian@wlwca.org](mailto:julian@wlwca.org) by 9:15 am on December 10<sup>th</sup>.



# Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Inc.

702 East Johnson Street · Madison, Wisconsin 53703-1533

Phone: (608) 441-2677 · Fax: (608) 441-2676 · Web site: [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org)

## MEMO

Thursday, October 07, 2010

**TO:** County Land Conservation Committee Chairs

**CC:** County Land Conservation Committee Departments

**FROM:** Julian Zelazny, WLWCA Executive Director **Julian Zelazny**

Digitally signed by Julian Zelazny  
DN: cn=Julian Zelazny, o=Wisconsin Land  
and Water Conservation Association,  
ou=Executive Director,  
email=julian@wlwca.org, c=US  
Date: 2010.10.07 11:42:31 -05'00'

**RE:** WLWCA Board of Directors recommendations for WLWCA bylaws amendments.

The WLWCA Board of Directors met on October 7, 2010 to review and recommend two bylaws amendments drafted by WLWCA staff and WLWCA President Charles Wagner. These bylaws amendments will be voted on by the membership at the annual business meeting scheduled December 10, 2010. In order to comply with the WLWCA bylaws, notice of proposed changes are being provided to you 60 days prior to the vote.

Both bylaws changes reflect current WLWCA operating policies.

- Section 5 amendment changes the bylaws to match the WLWCA membership policy adopted on February 21, 2008 where WLWCA waives the following year's dues for the county that puts forth the winning nomination for Conservation Farmer of the Year. WLWCA put this policy in place as an incentive for counties to nominate a conservation farmer and to help offset the county's costs for hosting the subsequent Conservation Observance Day.
- Section 11:F amendment changes the bylaws to remove procedural language for LWCB elections. Removing such language gives the membership greater flexibility to modify LWCB election procedures via the LWCB Election Policy and ensures that WLWCA bylaws do not come into conflict with LWCB Election Policy or potential changes to Wis. Stats. Section 15.135(4) (current policy adopted March 10, 2000). The WLWCA Board of Directors plans to review the LWCB Election Policy at the November 5, 2010 board meeting.

The WLWCA Board of Directors recommended both bylaws changes be submitted to membership for review and subsequent action. The draft bylaws recommendations are attached.

**BY-LAWS OF THE  
WISCONSIN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC.**

*ADOPTED 12-07-2007*

Section 1. Name. The name of the Association is WISCONSIN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC. The official abbreviation is (WLWCA).

Section 2. Mission. To serve county Land and Water Conservation Committees and Departments to conserve and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources.

Section 3. Voting Members. Every Land Conservation Committee (LCC) in the state of Wisconsin shall be deemed to be a voting member of this association unless the LCC declines in writing to be a member or their membership dues are lapsed. (See section 5.) Each LCC shall be entitled to one vote on every question put to a vote at any meeting. The vote of the LCC shall be cast by its chairperson, other committee member or a non-member approved by the LCC. A proxy form shall be submitted when its chairperson is unable to vote. The voting paddle will not be issued unless it is the chair of the county LCC or a written proxy form is submitted by the start of the business meeting.

Section 4. Non-Voting Members.

- A. Advisory Members. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, University of Wisconsin Extension; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USDA Farm Service Agency; Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees are invited to provide advisory members to the association. As many as four salaried Land Conservation Department employees shall be picked by the WLWCA Board of Directors to serve as advisors.
- B. Other Members. Other members are those persons, firms, associations or corporations who apply for such membership and make the required annual financial contribution to the association as established by the Board of Directors. The non-voting members shall be eligible to attend the meetings of the association, to participate in discussion and to receive its publications.

Section 5. Membership Assessment. Each LCC will pay to the association an annual assessment in an amount to be determined annually by the Board of Directors to take effect the following fiscal year. The Board of Directors shall, in determining the amount of the annual assessment, consider the recommendations of the Executive Committee, and the resolutions approved by the voting members at the annual convention. A Member which has not paid the membership dues in full by May 31 of the current year shall be considered a lapsed Member. Lapsed Members shall lose all general membership rights including voting privileges, resolution submission, news releases and communications with the Association. The County that hosts the Conservation Farmer of the Year and Conservation Observance Day will have their dues waived for the year Conservation Observance Day is hosted and will not be considered a lapsed Member.

Section 6. Board of Directors: Term of Office.

The business of the association shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and a director elected by each WLWCA Area at the annual area meeting of LCCs. Each director shall be from a dues paying county as stated in Section 5. An alternate director shall likewise be elected from each area. Each LCC is entitled to cast one vote for each position so elected.

Each director shall serve for a term of two years and until his/her successor has been elected. If a vacancy occurs, the alternate director shall serve as director. Following the organizational meeting of the county boards on the third Tuesday of April, in even numbered years, the names, addresses and officer designations of each LCC shall be forwarded to the current area president before the 20th of May. Before the 20th of June, the area president shall call a meeting of the LCCs in the area and elect the officers of the area association, including the area director and alternate whose name shall be forwarded to the WLWCA president.

The state of Wisconsin shall be divided into eight areas by the Board of Directors. The board may change the number of areas upon approval by the LCCs at the WLWCA annual meeting and the board may modify the boundaries of the areas with approval of the LCCs and area associations affected by the boundary change.

Section 7. Powers and Duties of the Board. The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To annually determine the policies and procedures of the association, and formulate and keep current a written plan of action for the association, all of which shall be consistent with the mission.
- B. To arrange the annual meeting of the members of the association and such meeting of the Board of Directors as it may deem advisable, and facilitate area meetings, or other special meetings, of association members.
- C. To keep the members of the association informed of the association's affairs and activities, programs, accomplishments, and issues of the LCCs.
- D. To approve the annual budget of the association, fix the rate of compensation of employees, authorize the payment of necessary expenses and per diem, including personal car mileage at a rate to be determined annually, determine matters relating to any publications of the association, and arrange for an annual audit of the association's financial records and accounts by a qualified disinterested person or firm.
- E. To maintain constructive working relations with all advisory agencies listed in section 4A.
- F. To collaborate closely with National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) on

activities of mutual interest.

- G. To delegate functions and duties to the president, other officers or directors, and employees of the association.
- H. To nominate and appoint as many as four salaried Land Conservation Department employees to serve as advisors to the Board.

Section 8. The Officers: Manner of Election and Term of Office. The officers of the association shall be a president, a vice-president and a secretary-treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot from the Board of Directors by the Board of Directors. Officers may not serve in any one elected position for more than 2 consecutive terms. Officers shall represent the entire state and shall remain in office until replaced. The Board of Directors may elect officers to fill vacancies in the event area association alternates are not available.

Section 9. Powers and Duties of Officers.

- A. The president shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and at the annual meeting and other meetings of the members of the association, and shall designate a presiding officer for any meeting at which neither the president nor the vice-president will be present. The president shall be responsible for seeing that the policies of the association are carried out in accordance with the applicable procedures and requirements. The president is authorized to perform the functions customarily performed by the president of an association or corporation. The president is authorized to delegate to one or more officers or directors the performance of any of his/her functions or responsibilities, to supervise the performance of such delegated duties, and to revoke any such delegation at any time. He/She shall perform such further duties as shall be assigned to the president by the Board of Directors or by resolution approved at a meeting of the members of the association.
- B. The vice-president and secretary-treasurer shall each perform the duties customary to their respective offices, and such other functions as the president or the Board of Directors may assign to any of them. In case of the death, resignation, or disability of the president, the Board of Directors may declare the office vacant and elect a successor. The officers of the association shall assist all committees in the performance of their responsibilities.
- C. The secretary-treasurer shall deposit all funds received by the association in accounts approved by the Board of Directors, and shall make all disbursements by check from those accounts for the necessary expenses of the association in accordance with the approved budget or upon authorization by the Board or the president. Checks shall be signed by the secretary-treasurer or other person authorized by the Board. At each annual meeting the secretary-treasurer shall submit statements to the Board showing the receipts and disbursements of the association for the preceding year and its assets and liabilities. He/She shall furnish to the association a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of his/her duties, in such form and amount as the

Board shall prescribe. The premium for the bond shall be paid out of the funds of the association.

Section 10. Staff. The president, with the approval of the officers and the Board of Directors, may employ staff, who shall be accountable to the president. The president shall annually give staff evaluation summaries to the Board. The president, with approval of the Board of Directors, may release staff following appropriate dismissal procedures.

Section 11. Meetings.

- A. An annual meeting of the LCCs of Wisconsin shall be held to conduct elections and other business of the association, to hear reports of the Board of Directors and committees, and to discuss and review the common concerns and problems and the accomplishments of the members. The time and place of this meeting shall be chosen by the Board of Directors after suitable consultation with the members.
- B. The Board of Directors shall meet during the annual meeting of the members, and shall hold such additional meetings as may be called by the president, at such time and place as the president may designate with not less than ten (10) calendar days notice to the Board members. In case of emergency, meetings may be called by the president on shorter notice. Special meetings of the board shall be called by the president upon the written request of a majority of the Board at a time and place designated by them.
- C. The LCCs within each of the designated areas shall hold an annual meeting, with the assistance of the area director, and at a time and place designated by the area president after consultation with LCCs of the area, for the discussion of common problems and for the purpose of making recommendations to the association. Each LCC shall send at least one voting delegate to the meeting of the LCCs of its area. Each area may adopt resolutions for recommendations to the association. No resolution may be considered at an annual meeting of the association unless it has been approved at an area meeting; or accepted and forwarded by the Board of Directors; or has been accepted for consideration by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
- D. The president of the association shall represent the association as the council member from Wisconsin at the annual convention of the National Association of Conservation Districts and the vice-president shall serve as alternate. If neither can attend, the Board of Directors shall name the council member and alternate.
- E. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board. Delegates representing a simple majority of member LCCs shall constitute a quorum at any annual or special meeting of the association.
- F. To comply with Section 15.135(4) Wis. Stats., ~~the following procedure shall be followed: The Board of Directors request that each Area Association nominate one~~

~~LCC member to serve on the state Land and Water Conservation Board. Nominations may be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting if approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting. Candidates must be LCC members when elected.~~ Election of the three Land and Water Conservation Board members shall be conducted at the association's annual meeting-conference in even-numbered years for a ~~two~~two-year term or until replaced.

Section 12. Committees. The Board of Directors may create committees as needed and define their functions. The members of any committee need not be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 13. Rules of Order. Meetings of the Board of Directors and of the association shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order unless those rules are inconsistent with any policy or rule adopted by the association or the Board of Directors.

Section 14. Changes to the Bylaws. Changes shall be voted on during an annual meeting of the Association. One copy of any proposed changes to these by-laws shall be sent to each member county a minimum of 60 days prior to the call to order of the annual meeting of the Association. During the annual meeting, each member county present shall be eligible to cast one vote on this issue. A 2/3-majority vote of those present and eligible to vote is required to approve any proposed changes.

Amendments developed April-October 2004.

Adopted by members on December 3, 2004.

Amendments developed April 26 and June 30, 2005.

Adopted by members on December 9, 2005.

Amendments developed April-July 2006

Adopted by members on December 8, 2006

Amendments developed November, 2007

Adopted by members on December 7, 2007

Amendments developed September-October, 2010

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## FARMING ON THE EDGE: LAND USE AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION

*By Rebecca Roberts, Land Use Specialist, Center for Land Use Education*

Wisconsin's landscape, economy and history are closely tied with agriculture. In 2007, Wisconsin's 78,000 farms produced \$9 billion in sales on 15.2 million acres of land. Together with the food processing industry, agriculture contributes 353,991 jobs, \$20.2 billion in income, and \$59.16 billion in sales. These values equal 10 percent of total state employment, nine percent of total income, and 12.5 percent of total industrial output.

As shown in Figure 1, Wisconsin agriculture is undergoing dramatic changes. The number of farms in Wisconsin peaked at 200,000 in 1935 and has been declining ever since. The amount of land dedicated to farming is also declining. Despite losing nearly two-thirds of all dairy farms over the last 25 years, dairy remains Wisconsin's largest agricultural sector. Dairy farms account for 4.8 million acres of all farmland and \$5.2 billion dollars in sales. Farms geared towards livestock production (such as cattle, hogs and poultry) account for 2.8 million acres and \$1.5 billion in sales. Farms dedicated to crop production account for 7.6 million acres and \$2.5 billion in sales.

While cows and crops cover much of Wisconsin's landscape, the dinner plate is how people intimately connect with agriculture. Farming of specialty crops (such as sweet corn, potatoes, snap beans, peas and cranberries) account for 400,000 acres, or just four percent of the state's total cropland. Expansion of farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, roadside stands, and on-farm sales represent growing opportunities to connect Wisconsin farmers directly with consumers. In 2007, agricultural products

sold directly to consumers for human consumption accounted for \$43.5 million or 0.5 percent of total agricultural sales. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of farms selling directly to consumers and the acreage in direct sales production doubled.

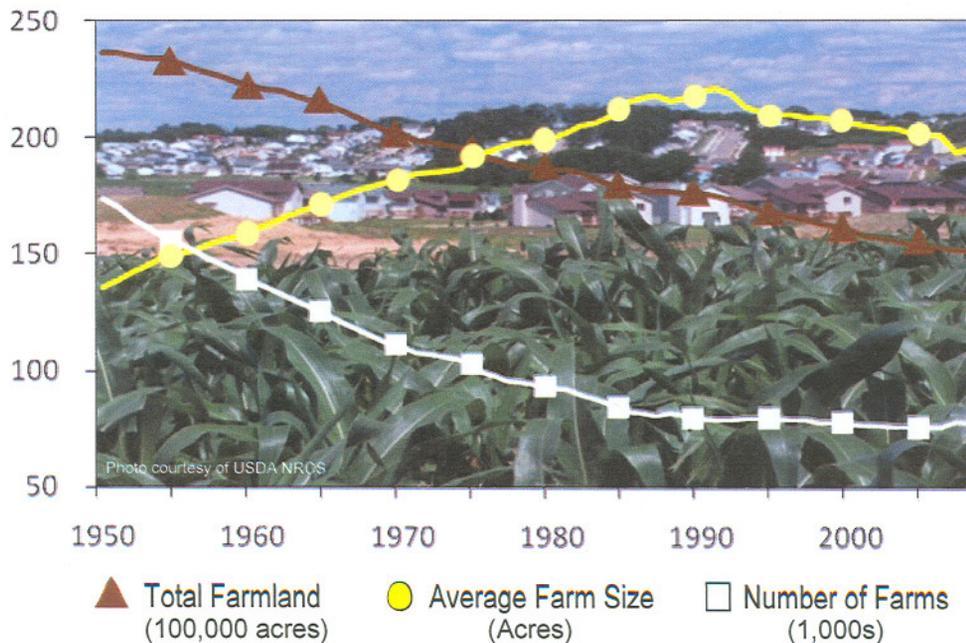
### Threats to Agriculture

#### ► Farmland Loss

Over the last 25 years, Wisconsin has lost over 2 million acres of farmland. Figure 2 shows the amount of agricultural land lost or gained by each county between 2000 and 2009. Inflated agricultural land values, increased rates of land speculation, and land use conflicts between farmers and their suburban neighbors are strong indicators of future agricultural land conversion. Researchers estimate that for every acre of prime farmland lost to scattered residential or urban development, another one-half to one acre becomes idle. In anticipation of future land conversion, farmers may begin to reduce production or delay investments in farm buildings, machinery, livestock or land conservation practices.

**Figure 1:**  
**Wisconsin Farm Trends, 1950-2008**

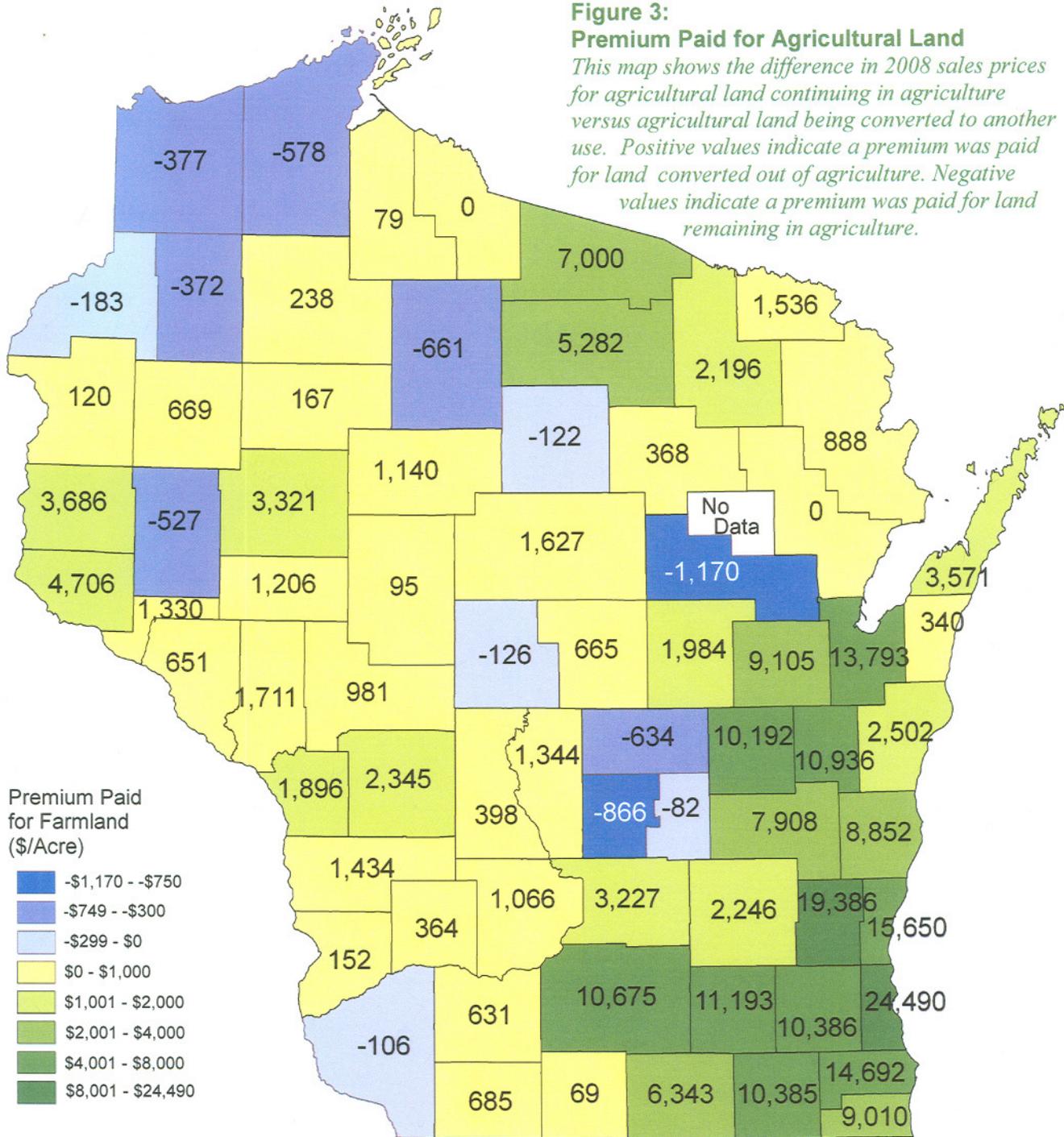
*As the number of farms and total amount of farmland in Wisconsin declined, average farm size grew, peaking in the early 1990s.*





**Figure 3:  
Premium Paid for Agricultural Land**

*This map shows the difference in 2008 sales prices for agricultural land continuing in agriculture versus agricultural land being converted to another use. Positive values indicate a premium was paid for land converted out of agriculture. Negative values indicate a premium was paid for land remaining in agriculture.*



**► Land Speculation**

Wisconsin’s use value assessment law was designed to reduce urban sprawl while providing property tax relief for farmers. Under this program, property taxes are assessed on land that is used primarily for agricultural purposes based on the land’s productivity rather than its full market value. In 2008, approximately 12 million acres of agricultural land, or 35 percent of all land in Wisconsin, was assessed under use value. While this program has been successful in moderating

agricultural land values, it has come under criticism in recent years. A 2010 analysis by the Legislative Audit Bureau looked at a cross-section of 14 communities across the state. In nine of the 14 communities, more than 50 percent of the land under use value assessment was zoned for non-agricultural purposes. In seven of the 14 communities, more than 20 percent of the land was owned by a real estate or property development company. Both of these trends suggest that agricultural land is being used as a low-cost holding zone for future development.

## Tools to Protect Farmland and the Agricultural Economy

Wisconsin counties and municipalities are using a variety of planning, regulatory and incentive-based tools to manage farmland and protect the agricultural economy. A few of these tools are described below:

### ► Purchase of Development Rights

A Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program allows willing landowners to place agricultural land into an easement in exchange for a one-time payment. The farmer retains full ownership of the land but is restricted from developing the land for nonagricultural purposes. Through this program, participating farmers can augment their income while continuing to farm the land.

#### *Town of Dunn*

The Town of Dunn in Dane County created one of the state's first PDR programs in 1996. Since that time, the Town of Dunn Land Trust Commission has acquired development rights to 24 properties covering over 2,800 acres of land. The purpose of this program is to preserve farmland, support farming operations, protect sensitive natural resources, and maintain rural character. Easements restrict non-farm development and subdivisions and include language to protect sensitive natural areas and other important resources. To fund the program, the town voted to increase its levy by \$0.50 per \$1,000 of equalized value. In 2000, it undertook a \$2.4 million bonding initiative to increase money available for purchasing easements. Other organizations have also preserved land in the town for a total of almost 5,500 acres, or 25 percent of the town.

#### *Waupaca County*

In 2009, Waupaca County adopted an ordinance establishing the Working Land Conservation Easement Program. This program is designed to preserve working farms and forests while supporting the local economy through agriculture and tourism. In its inaugural round of funding, Waupaca County was successful in garnering six of the 16 grants distributed by the state as part of the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program. Through this program, the state works with local governments and non-profit organization to fund up to 50 percent of the cost of purchasing agricultural easements from willing landowners.

### ► Local Planning and Zoning

At the local level, counties and municipalities are making innovative use of zoning and subdivision regulations to enforce minimum and maximum lot sizes, density limits, clustering, and other development standards.

#### *Jefferson County*

Jefferson County has taken a multi-pronged approach to protect agricultural land. The county's Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan works in conjunction with corresponding zoning and subdivision ordinances to direct development to urban areas, to limit lot splits on prime agricultural soils, to enforce a maximum two acre lot size for residential lots in A-1 zoning, and to cluster new development. To date, Jefferson County has preserved 27,000 acres of land using these techniques.

## Conclusion

Agriculture is a vital component of Wisconsin's social, cultural and economic fabric. Many people work on farms and rely on income generated from farming and its affiliated processing and manufacturing jobs. Despite the importance of agriculture, Wisconsin farmland is under threat. Declining farm profitability, inflated agricultural land values, and land use conflicts between farmers and their residential neighbors are just a few of the factors pushing farming to the edge. While there are a variety of tools available to local governments to protect farmland and the agricultural economy, leadership is needed at the local level to encourage the adoption of these tools. Local officials can play a critical role in this process.

### For More Information

Portions of this article were excerpted from a new report from the Center for Land Use Education, *Wisconsin Land Use Megatrends: Agriculture*. CLUE developed the Land Use Megatrends series to help Wisconsin decision-makers – including legislators, local officials, and landowners – make informed decisions about the future of Wisconsin. Other publications in the series focus on climate change, energy, forests, recreation and housing.

The full report, including references, is available at: [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/megatrends](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/megatrends).