

Northcentral Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition
Minutes
May 21, 2026

Members Present: Jeff Pritchard (Marathon County), Laurie Miskimins (Marathon County), Caleb Novitch (C-Merrill), Tim Vergara (V-Rothschild), TJ Niksich (C-Wausau), Mark Thuot (C-Schofield), James Perton (C-Marshfield), Kurt Schoen (V-Rib Mountain), and Shelly Solstice (C-Stevens Point).

Absent/Excused: Tom Pinion (C-Baraboo), Shane Kohnen (C-Stevens Point), Andrew Kiefer (C-Wisconsin Rapids), Jared Coates (C-Wisconsin Rapids), Paul Seefeldt (C-Mosinee), Michael Wodalski (V-Weston), Rod Akey (C-Merrill), Craig Czaikowski (C-Stevens Point), Nick Dums (C-Wisconsin Rapids), Josh Mauritz (C-Marshfield), Eric Southworth (C-Stevens Point), Greg Marsicek (UWSP), Mike Zsido (UWSP), and Joel Lemke (C-Stevens Point).

Others Present: Fred Heider (NCWRPC), Carley Jones (AECOM), and Jon Lindert (Strand).

1. Call to Order.

The agenda being distributed to each community for posting and to local media, Pritchard called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with a mix of remote and in-person attendance. Those attending in-person were in the Rock Conference Room, 1000 Lake View Dr, Wausau, WI.

2. Approve the March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Action: **Moved/Seconded by Vergara / Thuot to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026 meeting.**
Motion carried.

3. General Public Comment.

- No public comments made.

4. Chairperson's Report.

- Pritchard noted that County MOAs with local governments are under legal review, so it will be a little longer before they are available.
- Pritchard gave the floor to Jon Lindert to talk about a time sensitive public comment period for DNR's technical update to water quality trading.

Note: Pritchard kept this item live, so we could revisit it later in the agenda.

5. Budget Report.

Discussion: Heider reported a current balance of **\$20,612.52 after:**

- Reimbursing NCWRPC for Drink Like a Fish stickers (150 for \$53) and for the Wausau Chamber Expo booth registration of \$650.
- Reimbursing NCWRPC for Drink Like a Fish coasters (200 for \$137).
- Reimbursing NCWRPC for web hosting costs of \$54 for January through March 2026;
- Paying an NCWRPC invoice of \$703.00 for services from January through March 2026;
- Paying WSAW (Ch 7) \$3,500 for playing the Rubber Ducky PSA around Earth Day;
- Paying WAOW (Ch 9) \$1,700 for playing the Rubber Ducky PSA around Earth Day;
- Paying TV43 Baraboo \$500 for playing the Rubber Ducky PSA around Earth Day;
- Paying Fred Heider \$13.26 for booth supplies; and
- Depositing \$2,500 invoiced contributions from 3 of 13 Members (12 of 13 deposited).

Outstanding Liabilities:

- Up to \$868.23 remaining from \$2,000 to replenish expo booth supplies.
- Sponsorship of Salt Wise at the \$10,000 level to be paid in December 2026.

Other maximum variable liabilities per contracts on an as-needed basis:

- a) An agreement with NCWRPC to provide up to \$8,000 staff time annually for Stormwater's Outreach Coordinator position through April 1, 2028.
- b) An agreement with Strand to provide up to \$9,000 in engineering services through April 22, 2027.

Available Balance = **\$9,744.29**

Action: **The budget report as presented is approved by general consent.**

6. Stormwater Coalition Board elections. Nominations and elections will occur at this meeting.

Chairperson: Jeff Pritchard Re-Elected.

Vice-Chairperson: TJ Niksich Re-Elected.

Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Thuot Re-Elected.

7. League of WI Municipalities Stormwater Group.

Discussion: Pritchard noted that two Members brought up the idea of joining the League's Stormwater Group. Discussion among Members ensued.

Action: **TJ will reach out to the League about their Stormwater Group with a variety of questions that the Coalition had and get back to the Coalition at the next meeting.**

Pritchard noted that we would now re-address what to do about responding to DNR's technical update to water quality trading.

Action: **Moved/Seconded by Niksich / Vergara to delay and not provide public comment on this technical update to water quality trading. Motion carried.**

8. Public Education & Outreach – possible funding opportunities.

Discussion: Heider provided expo booth results for Wausau Region Chamber's EXPO 2026 and for UWSP's EcoFair. Heider also noted that the Wausau School District foundation was asking for community trinkets from EXPO 2026 participants – the Coalition gave 150 Ducky stickers and 150 No P in the water stickers. The Plover County Business Council had their first countywide expo in over a dozen years this spring, so that may be a new expo we participate in next year.

Pritchard noted that we still have durable outdoor rain garden signs for Member use.

Members noted that regardless of if DNR allows the Coalition to claim credit for having a booth at UWSP's EcoFair or only allows UWSP to claim credit, it is worth the Coalition's effort to continue to have a booth there due to the exposure to the general public that, due to enrollment, probably covers every Coalition member via a student's hometown.

Action: **Moved/Seconded by Niksich / Vergara to authorize another \$1,000 for booth supplies. Motion carried.**

9. Announcements, Next Meeting Date, & Next Agenda Items.

- Next meeting will be the third Thursday in August (Aug. 20) to set 2027 membership fee.

9. Adjournment.

Action: **Motioned/seconded by Thuot / Vergara to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. Motion carried.**

Submitted by: Fred Heider
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission