



2017 Annual Report



**Wisconsin
Wetlands
ASSOCIATION**



Dear wetland supporter,

Thanks to your support, communities across the state are seeing wetlands in a new light. You're helping spread the knowledge and awareness that Wisconsin needs wetlands.

Together, we're bringing about change and are helping put wetlands to work addressing the issues we face in our ever-changing world. We're moving toward the day when wetlands are abundant on the landscape and providing important habitat and biodiversity benefits, keeping our waters clean, reducing flood impacts, and restoring our groundwater.

As we continue this important work, we need to stay connected to the wetlands we care so much about. So let's keep our feet in the mud and enjoy the beauty of these natural treasures!

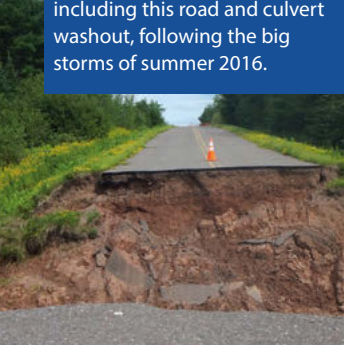
Tracy Hames, *Executive Director*



MONIKA BLAZS

Attendees shared their knowledge and enthusiasm at our annual Wetland Science Conference.

WWA surveyed flood damage in northern Wisconsin, including this road and culvert washout, following the big storms of summer 2016.



KYLE MACHERA

Promoting wetland science, practices, and tools.

We promote and advance the latest and best wetland science and practices through all of our work in order to improve management and decision-making. Including:

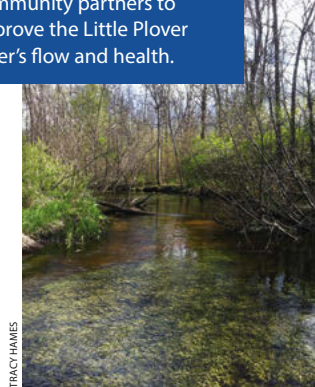
- Organizing an annual forum for wetland knowledge exchange for professionals and enthusiasts from across the region through our Wetland Science Conference. The 2017 conference in Stevens Point highlighted the theme *Wetland Connections*.
- Implementing a new initiative with NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement program landowners that identifies effective practices they can use to help keep their wetlands healthy
- Leading an effort to study watersheds in Wisconsin's far north to tell the story of how upper watershed wetland loss contributed to costly flood damage following big storms in the summer of 2016.



KATIE BELLUS

We're pointing out watershed connections in Mequon.

We're working with community partners to improve the Little Plover River's flow and health.



TRACY HAMES

Working with communities.

We provide training, technical support, and field-based outreach to help communities understand and act on opportunities to put wetlands to work to improve local water and watershed health. Including:

- Working closely with partners in Mequon identifying opportunities to protect and restore wetlands and other open spaces and conducting outreach to build broad public support for the City's plan for open space protection.
- Helping the Village of Plover and local growers incorporate strategic wetland restoration, soil conservation, and water use reduction in an ambitious effort to restore river flows, conserve groundwater, and improve watershed health.
- Collaborating with the UW-Extension Environmental Resource Center to help their Educators integrate wetland training and technical support into their community-based work.

Building informed communities

This workshop for UWEX educators helped community leaders like Kris Tiles communicate the benefits wetlands provide to their communities.

CHELSEA JOHNSON

“Before collaborating with WWA, I had a very narrow view of what wetlands looked like and what role they played in the landscape,” recalls Kris Tiles, Natural Resources Educator in Central Wisconsin. “Now, I understand more broadly the definition of a wetland and how they can help us solve some of our water quality issues.”

To keep our wetlands healthy we need informed and engaged communities, and to reach these communities WWA has connected with educators and community leaders like Kris and the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX).

UWEX educators are leaders in helping people and communities understand their natural resources. When it comes to wetlands though, UWEX educators like Kris want some help communicating the benefits wetlands provide to their communities.

Last summer, we hosted a workshop exclusively for UWEX educators to help them identify and implement locally-led wetland conservation strategies. Since then, we have continued to support and build a cohort of UWEX educators to deliver wetland programs in Iowa, Portage, and Marathon Counties.

We will continue supporting Kris and other UWEX educators who deliver educational experiences that demonstrate why wetlands are community assets, empowering people and communities to protect and restore wetlands.

Engaging Policy Makers.

We work in Wisconsin’s capitol and beyond to build relationships with decision-makers and other interest groups and to help them see how wetlands relate to the issues they care about. This groundwork elevates our efforts to sustain and expand policies and programs that promote wetland conservation and restoration. Including:

- Increasing our capacity to defend wetlands and advance pro-active wetland legislation with the strategic addition of policy liaison Brian Vigue to our staff.
- Employing a collaborative, non-partisan, solution-oriented approach to improve outcomes for wetlands in bills related to aquaculture, drainage district management, and other issues.
- Researching and advocating for policy changes to streamline regulatory review of wetland restoration projects.

MONIKA BLAZ



Our new policy liaison Brian Vigue is raising the profile of wetlands at the Capitol.



CHELSEA JOHNSON

Heritage Circle

Members who gave \$2,500 or more

Anonymous
 H.J. Hagge Foundation Fund,
 a component fund of the
 Community Foundation of North
 Central Wisconsin
 Robert S. Hagge, Jr. & Elke Hagge
 Ronald Horn
 Tracy & Victoria Hames
 R. Tod Highsmith
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 David Musolf & Roger Packard
 Pheasants Forever—
 Ozaukee County Chapter #680
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 Rene Von Schleinitz Foundation
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 Mark & Kathy Wendling
 Kristin Westad
 Wisconsin Land + Water
 Thomas Wolfe & Patricia Powers
 Elizabeth Zimmerman

Large Awards, Grants, and Sponsors

\$2,500 or more
 Brookby Foundation
 Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
 Fund for Lake Michigan
 Madison Community Foundation
 McKnight Foundation
 Midwest Access Solutions
 Patagonia—Chicago
 Stantec
 US Environmental Protection Agency
 Village of Plover
 We Energies
 Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

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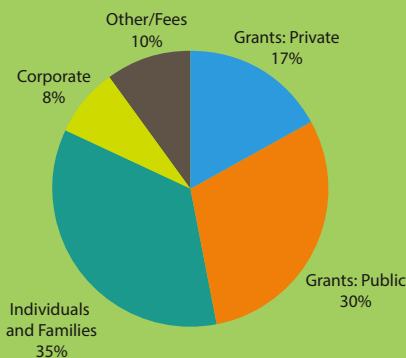
STAFF

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Policy Liaison

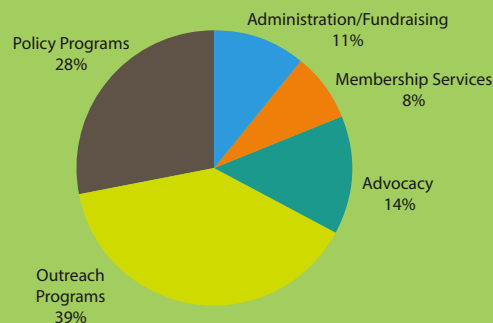
Fiscal year 2017

July 2016–June 2017

Total Revenue: \$547,615



Total Expenses: \$509,997



Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy.



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 wisconsinwetlands.org

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