

Central Sands Water Action Coalition

Who is CSWAC?

The Central Sands Water Action Coalition is a membership organization of 68 lake and river associations, lake districts, and conservation groups representing more than 50,000 members and their families concerned with negative impacts on water resources in the Central Sands Region of Wisconsin

CSWAC Mission

The Coalition's mission is to advocate for the protection and sustainable use of ground and surface waters of the Central Sands – the area comprised of parts of Adams, Marquette, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood counties and containing rich quantities of groundwater and scores of streams and lakes. We believe that smart, science-driven decision-making can guarantee that there is enough clean water for everyone.

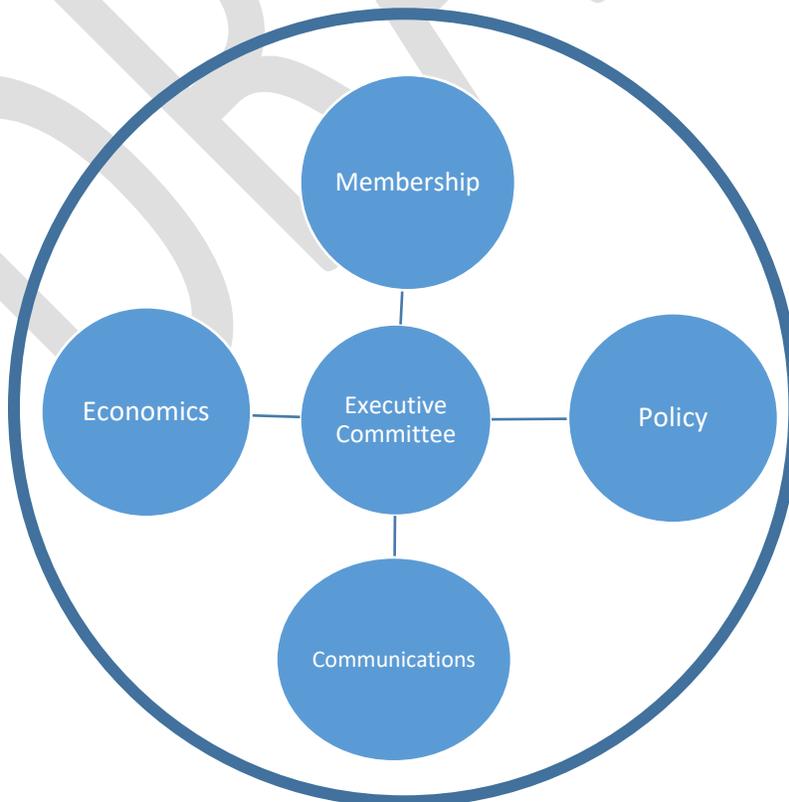
Membership

Membership is open to organizations that share the mission of CSWAC and are willing to be advocates, share information with your organization's members and be actively involved in one of the committees to further our mission.

How is CSWAC Organized?

CSWAC is structured with a Steering Committee which is made up of representatives from each member organization. An Executive Committee with sub-committees designated by the Steering Committee is charged with accomplishing the work of the organization.

Steering Committee



Duties of each Committee

Steering Committee

The coalition will have a Steering Committee as its deliberative and decision making body. It will be comprised of one representative from each of the member organizations. The steering committee will make policy decisions which the committees carry out, such as whether to approve or oppose a bill, for instance.

An organization becomes a member of the steering committee when its board of directors adopts and submits the approved resolution to the chairperson of the Membership Committee. Each member organization has one vote should the Steering Committee make a decision by a vote. The Steering Committee will strive to operate by consensus, but if consensus cannot be reached, a voice vote or show of hands will be taken and recorded, and treated as a formal decision by the Steering Committee.

Executive Committee

Directed by the Steering Committee, The Executive Committee coordinates the activities of the other committees, sets Steering Committee meeting agendas, times and location and records meeting minutes and distributes the steering committees work to the rest of the group. Executive Committee will also take action on time sensitive matters as needed.

Members:

- Chair - Skip Hansen
- Policy Chair- Francie Rowe
- Membership Chair/Secretary- Marty Wilke
- Economics Chair- TBD
- Communications Chair- Allison Werner

Policy Committee

Monitor, evaluate, and promote policies at the state and local level on pertinent groundwater issues. The committee members will meet with legislators and elected officials on behalf of CSWAC. They will also provide talking points for our members to help them advocate for groundwater polices. Further, they will seek to develop a network of “Champions” in as many legislative districts as possible, particularly within those districts represented by the party in power. These champions are the frontline for ACTION when bad legislation is proposed as well as advocates when positive bills emerge. The committee will also work on proactive policies at the local and state level when possible, including DNR policies such as the impaired waters list.

Members:

- Russ Brown
- Barb Gifford
- Skip Hansen
- Francie Rowe, Chair
- Mark Theis
- Allison Werner

Communication Committee

Communication is key to increasing members, influencing legislators and informing the general public of this issue and why they should be concerned even if they live in a metropolitan area. A collection of information pieces, regular letters to the editor, Groundwater 101, and other topical documents would be the province of this committee. In addition, when media are interested in a story or spokesperson, this committee can determine who to put forward.

Members:

- Bill Hendee
- Dan Trudell
- Allison Werner, Chair

Membership Committee

This committee actively pursues groups that share the mission as well as connecting with similar groups around the State that are facing similar water resource challenges. The purpose being to build a larger coalition that will have greater influence as a counterbalance to the Agriculture and Dairy blocks. Further, information sharing is vital to success in our efforts and we may be able to learn or share knowledge with others for mutual benefit.

Members:

- Bill Hendee
- Cris Van Houten
- Arnie Wilke
- Marty Wilke, Chair

Economic Committee

There have been numerous suggestions made as to how to influence outcomes in our direction. To date, our actions have been focused on defense, when a bad bill is proposed, - we seek to kill it. We have not taken the offense to the Ag/Dairy groups. In general, this committee will develop discussion areas to open additional avenues to put AG/Dairy on the defense. There are several economic strategies this committee will consider:

- 1) Use consumer/market demand to approach those entities that contract with the farmers to invite them to exert influence on the growers.
- 2) Open a discussion on financial fronts with municipalities. The low tax rate paid by farmers, the financial impact of lost surface water resources as it relates to ALL citizens (re: Long Lakes reduced assessment and taxes paid), etc. Explore what other taxpayer funded benefits these guys are receiving- subsidies, etc. What about us? When do we get compensated for loss of value?
- 3) Compile Tourism data for use in communications, demonstrating value water/natural resources provides to state, central sands region/each of the 6 counties

No members as of yet