

Association of Retired Conservationists

Meeting via Zoom, March 2, 2022

President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. She asked for a moment of silence to remember our deceased members, armed services members, first responders, medical personnel and those in harm's way in Ukraine.

Treasurer Dick Steffes reported \$174 in savings and \$525 in checking.

New Members: Gene Mitchell introduced Barb Bickford, in anticipation of her attending this her first meeting. With 37 years at DNR, she served as DNR's medical waste coordinator for 25 of those years. As Barb apparently was unable to attend the Zoom, will put forth for vote at a future meeting.

Bob Schaefer reported that although both Core and Variable annuities are down, given current events worldwide, they're still above benchmarks. SWIB reported that the Core Fund was down -3.54% and the Variable was down -4.90%. At its March meeting, ETF's actuary will make a recommendation to the board, and the board will vote on the adjustments.

Old Business

None

Deaths & Illnesses

None

New Business

Our speaker for April, Fred Clark, executive director of Wisconsin Green Fire, will bring us up to date on its priorities and efforts.

Laurel brought up returning to in-person lunch meetings, possibly beginning as early as April. Scheduled for Imperial Gardens. Rick Wojciak will poll all members.

Spring Rules Meetings: Refer to the What's New tab on wisarc.org. There is a link to the questions and information about participating on line in the DNR news release, "WCC Virtual Spring Hearing Begins April 11 at 7 p.m.

The NRB dumped the groundwater standards for a number of contaminants, largely due to the inclusion of PFASs rules. DNR staff worked on the draft rules for 2 ½ years. Waiting to hear about expected impacts on groundwater rules.

Jim March proposed inviting someone from the health lab to speak about the deer herd.

Allen Prey will turn 87 on March 11.

Laurel adjourned the business meeting and welcomed guest speaker retired Channel 27 senior meteorologist Bob Lindmeier. NOTE: Bob Lindmeier graciously agreed to our recording his presentation. Rick Wojciak will post it on wisarc.org. It's worth your time.

Guest Speaker: Bob Lindmeier on Climate Change

Lindmeier got heavily involved in climate change education while keeping tabs on climate scientists' growing concern. Public not concerned. Industry not concerned. A lot of bad information. Changes not happening fast enough. Trend of accepting the science is growing, however.

Sees climate change as simple/serious/solvable. Virtually 100% of science credits human action as the cause, added to natural causes. The science itself has been around for 200 years.

Impacts on Wisconsin:

- Three degrees above average increase in Madison exceeds the national average.
- Winter in the state warming much faster than other three seasons.
- Lake Mendota has been heavily studied.
- Locally see increase in toxicity of algae blooms and poison ivy; increase in prevalence of Lyme disease, mosquitoes and allergies.
- By year 2100, Madison could be as warm as Louisiana.

The world our children and grandchildren will inherit will be much different.

Climate is changing faster than evolution can keep up with it.

With more extreme rain events, more water in the atmosphere for storms to draw upon. Increased rainfalls seriously impact infrastructure, health and economy. As result, the number of billion-dollar disasters from storms, wildfires, flooding, etc., becoming more frequent.

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act now before Congress. Charge polluters for emissions and return dividends to families.

Lindmeier belongs to the Citizens Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/about-cl/methodology/>). There are several chapters in Wisconsin, including in Madison (https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/WI_Madison/).