



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS

August 24, 2018

WAPAC Members,

For years, our association has met to offer and share educational opportunities but have been challenged by non-members as to what the benefits beyond that might be for them and for their businesses, if they were to join WAPAC. Our meetings have been open to non-members, allowing them to enjoy the benefits of the meetings without the commitment of joining and serving in our association. WAPAC members have served on planning and oversite committees and participated in strategic sessions, but, historically, our input has had minimal impact. Other agricultural associations are based largely on lobbying to protect interests, and we have now joined those ranks. In the short time span we have been paying a professional lobbyist, we have become much more effective as we have addressed legislative changes that dramatically affect our clients and farming practices in Wisconsin. Other associations have also reached out to WAPAC for input on projects they are working on; we have truly become recognized and appreciated!

Our clients hire us to anticipate problems in areas where they may not be experts and to head off potential issues they may face. Our hiring of a lobbyist accomplishes exactly the same outcome! A lot of time is spent researching, educating, and building relationships that will be important to our goals. Actual lobbying on the 'Hill' is not deductible as a business expense, but all the build-up **IS!** WAPAC plans to send out statements next January, around the time you are receiving 1099s from your clients, with the 2018 deductible expense of your contribution highlighted. **It is anticipated that 75% of contributions will be tax-deductible.**

Our lobbying cost is **\$27,000.00** for 2018. To date, our membership contributions total **\$20,225**. We are short for our 2018 budget by **\$6,775.00**. Currently, we are reviewing draft guidance that addresses Land Conservation Department staff conducting site visits on farms determining if "significant discharges" are occurring. Soon, we will have an opportunity to address implementation of ATCP50, when it is opened in the very near future. **It is critically important that we stay involved!** There are giant challenges ahead and the current economy has only made involvement more critical. We are making our voice heard and we now need to keep the forward momentum we have!

Thank you very much for contributions you may have already made! Would you please consider adding to your contribution, or sending money in for lobbying for the first time **NOW?** 2019 will bring another call for dollars. If we are fortunate enough to have a surplus for 2018, it will carry over into 2019 costs for lobbying.

Contributions can be by PayPal by visiting <http://www.wapac.info/membership.html>, credit card by calling Melisa at (608)957-7320 or by sending a check to WAPAC, S101 Wiese Road, La Valle, WI, 53941.

Thank you again,

WAPAC Board of Directors

Haily Sand, President, **Nathen Nysse**, President-Elect, **Robert Mickelson**, Treasurer, **Tom Novak**, Secretary
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