



Pointers for Public Testimony at Budget Hearings Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) Issues

04/01/2019

To our Members and Supporters:

The Wisconsin Legislature's [Joint Committee on Finance](#) (JFC) has scheduled their spring public [budget hearings](#). We encourage all conservation minded citizens to attend a hearing and testify about conservation issues in Wisconsin! Public voices matter, and this guidance is to inform and support your effective testimony.

Officially Representing Wisconsin's Green Fire in Public Testimony

Only Wisconsin's Green Fire Work Group Chairs or members we have designated as subject matter experts should testify publicly *on behalf of WGF*. We encourage all our members and supporters however to reference WGF information and positions when testifying publicly, and we ask that when doing so you ***make clear you are testifying as an individual***.

Planning to Testify

- Hearings start at 10:00AM, but you should plan to get there and register as early as 8 AM if you wish to testify. Come prepared to spend most of your day at the hearing.
- You will only have 2 minutes to testify which will allow you to cover 1-2 topics at best. There will likely be no questions from legislators.
- If you want to bring printed testimony bring 20 hard copies with your full contact information on it for the committee members – committee clerks will distribute your testimony.
- We invite you to reference any of the information in *Opportunities Now* in your testimony, or to cite other Wisconsin's Green Fire work products. (Resources on following page).

Joint Committee on Finance Hearing Schedule (All Hearings Start at 10:00 AM).

- **Friday, April 5th, Janesville: Pontiac Convention Center 2809 North Pontiac Drive**
- **Wednesday, April 10th, Oak Creek: Oak Creek Community Center 8580 South Howell Avenue,**
- **Monday, April 15th, River Falls: University of Wisconsin River Falls University Center-Riverview Ballroom**
- **Wednesday, April 24th, Green Bay: University of Wisconsin Green Bay University Union Phoenix Room**

Thank you for volunteering your time and talents to support Wisconsin's Green Fire. WGF is built on the strength and experience of our members!

wgreenfire.org

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[Wisconsin's Green Fire 2019-2021 Budget Issues and Resources](#)

WGF Budget Recommendations in [Opportunities Now Report](#)

- Agricultural Water Pollution
 - Strengthen oversight of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's)
 - Increase CAFO permit fees to reflect the cost of CAFO oversight
 - Increase support for County Conservation Staff
 - Increase cost-share funding for projects to reduce agricultural runoff
- Re-authorize the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program
 - Extend the KNSP authorization for 10 years until 2029
 - Increase funding to acquire state lands and catch up with the 600 million maintenance and capital needs backlog on state properties
- Take Actions to Control Chronic Wasting Disease.
 - Increase funding for better access to CWD testing and faster test results
 - Permanent staffing for the CWD testing program
 - Fund CWD research on better testing and control strategies
- Climate Change – support state and local governments to address risk and mitigation

Other Issues WGF Supports

WGF works on a wide range of important issues. See WGF [work group pages](#) and collections of [WGF issue papers](#). WGF also supports the work of other organizations on several issues.

- Support policy frameworks to prevent groundwater withdrawals that impact lakes and streams (See *Opportunities Now*).
- Support funding to remove lead pipes and help prevent lead poisoning in municipal and community water systems.
- Significant new investment in identifying, monitoring, and clean-up of Perfluoroalkoxy alkanes (PFA) throughout Wisconsin.

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