

A large green circle containing the text 'May 13th, 2021', 'CHICAGO WILDERNESS', 'Cafe', and '• DIVERSE VOICES • GREEN VISION • UNITED REGION'. The background of the slide is a photograph of a wetland area with a pond, trees, and a cloudy sky.

May 13th, 2021

CHICAGO WILDERNESS

Cafe

• DIVERSE VOICES •
GREEN VISION • UNITED REGION

Moderators:

- **Laura Reilly** (Chicago Wilderness Coordinator)
- **Susan Donovan** (Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy in Illinois)

Leveraging CW's Government Relations Community In Your Advocacy Work

Agenda:

- I. Introduction
- II. Opening Poll
- III. Legislative update & Chicago Wilderness Collective Goals
- IV. Review of GRC procedures and processes
 - I. GRC Priorities & Principles
 - II. Policy Action Request Form
 - III. Social Link
- V. Round Robin discussion
- VI. Closing reflection

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Goal 1: Healthy Lands

America The Beautiful (30x30)

- Goal of conserving 30% of the country's lands and waters by 2030
- January 27th : Executive Action
- May 6th: President Biden releases America The Beautiful plan
- Equity in access to nature

Goal 2: Agriculture

Growing Climate Solutions Act (S. 1251/H.R. 2820)

- USDA certification program that streamlines farmer/ landowner participation in carbon sequestration
- Currently co-sponsored by Sen. Durbin (IL), Sen. Stabenow and Sen. Peters (MI), Sen. Braun & Sen. Todd (IN), and Sen. Baldwin (WI)
- In House co-sponsored by Rep. Bustos (IL) and Rep. Hollingsworth (IN)



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Goal 3: Green Infrastructure in Built Places

American Jobs Plan

- Broad infrastructure package: transportation, utility industry, physical infrastructure, and more
- Promotes investments in natural infrastructure
- Job creation for overburdened communities

Goal 4: Increase habitat/conservation land

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- Biodiversity bill: addresses habitat loss of vulnerable species
- Funds local and state efforts to invest in conservation of at-risk species
- Re-introduced on Earth Day (H.R. 2773)
- Introduced by Congresswoman Dingell (MI). Currently co-sponsored by Congresswoman Schakowsky (IL)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Goal 5: Nature Access and Benefits for People

Land Water Conservation Fund

- Summer 2020: passage of Great American Outdoors Act
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program
- Implementation

Goal 6: Climate

CLEAN Future Act

- Emission reduction of 50% by 2030, 100% by 2050
- Enacts Clean Energy Standard, building code updates, and prioritizes equitable community/worker transition
- Currently co-sponsored by Congressman Rush (IL), Congresswoman Kelly (IL), Congresswoman Schakowsky (IL), and Congresswoman Dingell (MI)



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Goal 7: Aquatic Resources

Illinois Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act (SB 2474 & HB 1792)

- Increases funding to the Partners for Conservation Fund to implement Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy
- Partners for Conservation Fund program sunsets July 1, 2021
- Nutrient runoff impacts all Illinoisans, urban and rural alike
 - degrading drinking water supplies
 - harming aquatic wildlife
 - diminishing opportunities for recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, and boating
- Legislation was developed with input from representatives from Illinois EPA and departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources and is supported by
 - American Farmland Trust
 - Illinois Environmental Council
 - Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association
 - Illinois Sierra Club
 - The Wetlands Initiative

REVIEW OF GRC PROCEDURES & PROCESSES

Updates to Priorities and Principles Document

- Cultivating an inclusive community
- [ChicagoWilderness.org/AdvocacyandAwareness](https://chicagowilderness.org/advocacyandawareness)
- Types of actions GRC can take
 - Share info with CW partners working on this issue
 - Post issue to Government Relations Community page
 - Share on CW social media and SocialLink
 - Share action alert via CW eblast
 - Create CW Cafe on this topic/issue
 - Request CW to write letter of support*

*Requests will be reviewed by GRC team and approved by Executive Council



REVIEW OF GRC PROCEDURES & PROCESSES

Policy Action Request Form

- Pre-submission requirements: relevance to CW priorities and principles; how issue affects the region; summary, including bill number; links; what action is requested
- ChicagoWilderness.org/AdvocacyandAwareness
- Post-submission: Reviewed by GRC team; if approved, forwarded to Executive Council; action as requested

First Name *	
Last Name *	
Email Address *	
Organization *	
Phone *	
Professional Title	
<u>1. Is this issue relevant to the CW Priorities and Principles? *</u>	☐ Lands, Waters, Plants & Wildlife ☐ Climate & Infrastructure ☐ People & Health
2. How does this issue impact the community, nature, wildlife, etc of the Chicago Wilderness Region? *	
3. Summary of info on issue or policy action requested; include bill number	
Upload or attach sign on letter or text	Choose File No file chosen
Link to an online action alert	
Date for action to be completed by	
<u>4. What type of action are you requesting? *</u>	☐ Share info with CW partners working on this issue ☐ Post issue to Government Relations Community page ☐ Share on CW social media and SocialLink ☐ Share action alert via CW eblast ☐ Create CW Cafe on this topic/issue ☐ Request CW Partners write or sign on to letters of support*
SUBMIT	

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS AT *CHICAGOWILDERNESS.ORG/ADVOCACYANDAWARENESS*

1. **Find your legislators in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana** to voice your support or disagreement on conservation issues
2. **View legislative calendars for Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana** to stay aware of business during session
3. **Read or download the current GR Community legislative priorities and principles** for guidance of CW's topics of concern
4. **Submit a Policy Action Request Form** for consideration to be shared with the CW community

Advocacy & Awareness

[Our Work](#) » Advocacy & Awareness



The Advocacy & Awareness committees seek to inspire healthy communities by raising awareness, advancing change, and building support for conservation through policy development, advocacy movements, and educational campaigns.

Topic areas: communications, marketing and outreach, government relations, and social and environmental advocacy

Committee members are responsible for:

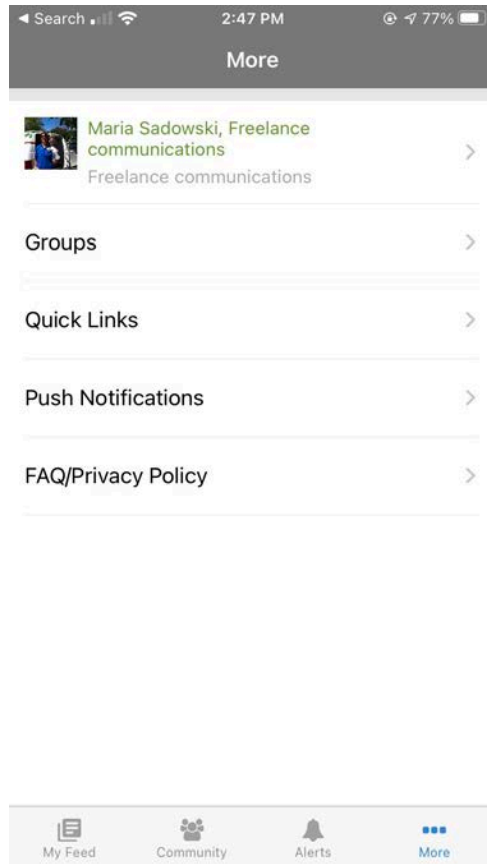
- [Award & Accreditation programs](#)
 - Showcases the Chicago Wilderness region's most inspiring wild places and people
- Government Relations community
 - Considers potential policy engagements through a process that looks at current CW initiatives, priorities, and the present legislative climate

We encourage individuals and organizations interested in advocacy and awareness to take the following actions:

1. **Voice your support for conservation issues and initiatives; find your elected officials**

SOCIALLINK MEMBER PORTAL AND APP

- Join groups, find members, share files
- Email Laura at info@chicagowilderness.org for login info
- Download SocialLink in app store



SOCIALLINK MEMBER PORTAL AND APP

- Join groups, find members, share files
- Share updates, events, requests, etc. on your NewsFeed

Chicago Wilderness

Welcome, Maria Sadowski, Freelance communications ▼

My Feed My Profile Directory Messages Connections Groups Quick Links ▼

Add Photos

What's going on today?

Post

Chicago Wilderness has posted a new event: CW Cafe: Leveraging the CW Government Relations Community in Advocacy Work
Today at 5:18 pm

CW Cafe: Leveraging the CW Government Relations Community in Advocacy Work

Find out how CW partner organizations can get involved, raise awareness and advocate within the CW community.

When: 05/13/2021

Register Now

Like Share

Write a comment...

Chicago Wilderness has posted a new event: International Society of Arborists Call for Abstracts
Today at 5:00 pm

International Society of Arborists Call for Abstracts

Announcements

2021 EERP Application Period Now Open!

Find Out More Next

My Engagement

Frequent Contributor

Increase your engagement by posting to the feed, commenting on, liking or sharing a post.

Leading Contributors

You rank in the **top 1%**
#1 out of 1,316

1 **Maria Sadowski, Freelance communications**
Frequent Contributor

2 **Matt Evans, Chicago Botanic Garden**
Making Progress

SOCIALLINK MEMBER PORTAL AND APP

Group pages

- Find leaders and members
- Share files
- Email the group

The screenshot displays the 'Groups' page for the 'Advocacy & Awareness: Government Relations' group. The top navigation bar includes 'Messages', 'Connections', 'Groups', and 'Quick Links'. The 'Groups' tab is highlighted, and a green arrow points to it. Below the navigation bar, the group name 'Advocacy & Awareness: Government Relations' is displayed. A dropdown menu for 'Pages' shows 'Government Relations Committee' and 'Committee Files'. The main content area features a 'Welcome' message, a 'Committee Leaders' section with three members (Susan Donovan, Michelle Uting, and Ellicia Sanchez), a 'Government Relations Community' section with a description, and a 'Chicago Wilderness Priorities and Principles' section with two sub-sections: 'Lands, Waters, Plants & Wildlife' and 'Climate & Infrastructure'. The right sidebar contains sections for 'Features' (Directory, Calendar, Photo Gallery), 'Group Reps' (Laura Reilly and Maria Sadowski), and 'Photo Gallery' (No new items).

SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

1. Career Center
2. Community Calendar
3. Equity and Inclusion resource page
4. CW page on iNaturalist

[EMAIL INFO@CHICAGOWILDERNESS.ORG](mailto:INFO@CHICAGOWILDERNESS.ORG)
OR LAURA.REILLYCW@GMAIL.COM



ROUND ROBIN DISCUSSION

What are some policy opportunities you're excited to work on in the coming year?

ROUND ROBIN DISCUSSION

Based on our earlier review of GRC priorities and principles, SocialLink feed, and the policy action request form, do you have any feedback as to how we could potentially streamline this process to be more inclusive, and reach groups beyond Illinois?

QUESTIONS?

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