

# State Budget & Legislative Update

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Presented by Michael Engleson, WI Lakes  
April 6, 2017  
Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention



# Agenda

- Focus on budget (other legislation to be focus of the 8-9 “Water & Legislation” breakout session on Thr)
- Budget process
- Specific items in budget
- What it means in context
- Other legislation

## Two types of legislation

- Budget bill
- Everything else

## Legislative timeline

- Legislative session is two years
- Budget is worked on Feb-June of 1<sup>st</sup> year of session
- Other legislation is before budget work, and then winter-spring
- Floor periods are limited

## Timeline for state budget development



Fall 2016  
Agencies  
submit  
budget  
requests to  
Governor

Feb 2017  
Governor  
announces  
Executive  
Budget  
Proposal

Mar 2017  
Legislature's  
Joint Finance  
Committee  
Hold Hearings  
with Agencies  
and Public

April 2017  
Joint Finance  
Committee  
votes on  
each section  
of the budget

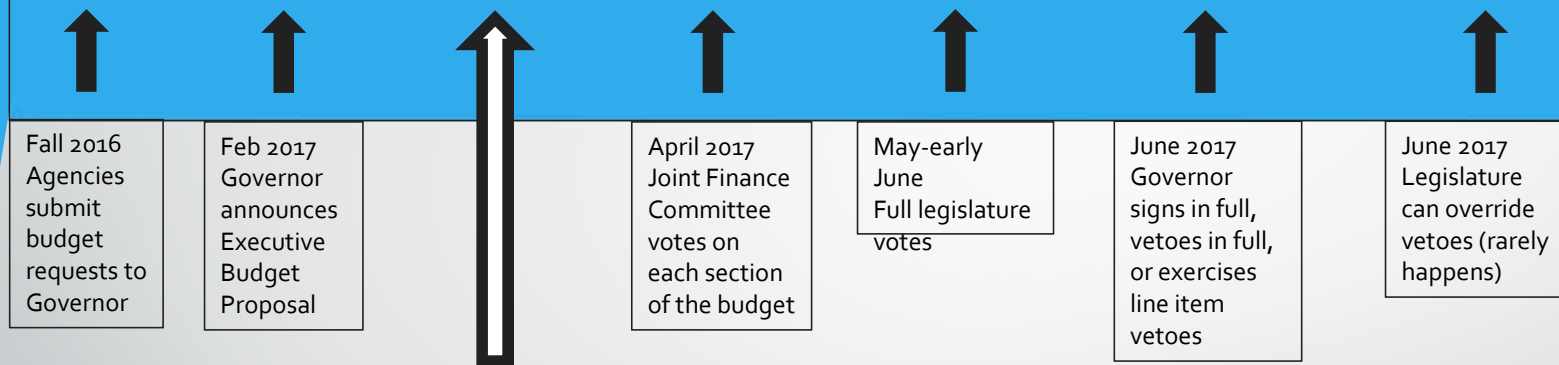
May-early  
June  
Full legislature  
votes

June 2017  
Governor  
signs in full,  
vetoes in full,  
or exercises  
line item  
vetoes

June 2017  
Legislature  
can override  
vetoes (rarely  
happens)

- State budget is biennial – 2 years (July 2017-June 2019)

# Timeline for state budget development



Mar 2017  
Legislature's Joint  
Finance Committee  
Hold Hearings with  
Agencies and Public

- Agency hearings allow legislators to ask questions of agency heads – can be more theater than informational

# What's In the Budget?

- In general, more spending than usual - education, transportation, etc
- DNR funding largely stable
- No apparent change to lakes & rivers funding
- Surface water grants untouched
- Funding not restored for non-profit conservation organizations

## What's In the Budget?

- Money provided to study moving Combined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) regulation from DNR to DATCP



## What's In the Budget?

- County Conservationist funding would be reduced to 2013 levels

## What's In the Budget?

- Some funding for natural resource educators would be cut, especially those working on polluted runoff issues

## What's In the Budget?

- Elimination of forestry mill tax
- Elimination of DNR's "Natural Resources" magazine

## The big thing nobody's talking about

- Modelled on federal "REINS Act"
- In budget and as stand alone legislation (SB15)
- Scope of a rule would need to be reviewed by DOA for agency authority to promulgate
- JCRAR can direct agency to hold public hearing on scope statement
- A law would need to be passed allowing rule if it would result in implementation and compliance costs of \$10 million dollars
- JCRAR can request economic impact study

## What does it all mean?

- This is a budget written by an unpopular governor in an election year
- The legislature can and will change the budget
- Lakes and rivers funding probably safe - but not out of the woods yet
- Who knows what non-fiscal policy items are coming?

## Non-budget legislation

- High-cap well bill
- Aquaculture bill
- DNR issuance of general permit for small scale dredging in lakes
- Mining bill (coming soon)



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