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**Advocacy Digest | September 24, 2021**

**Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**Kleefisch Announces Bid for Governor**

Recently, former Wisconsin Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch announced her candidacy to be the republican nominee in 2022 to take on Governor Tony Evers. Kleefisch announced her candidacy in a video that can be viewed [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPvpIIE9yhw).

Another possible candidate recently announced he would not be running for governor, current lobbyist, and former Secretary of Commerce under Governor Thompson Bill McCoshen,

Other rumored to be looking at a run for governor are State Representative John Macco, and two former candidates for U.S. Senate, Eric Hovde and Kevin Nicholson.

**LeMahieu Targets Workforce Housing**

During a recent government affairs conference panel, State Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu stated one of the topics he would like to address prior to the end of this legislative session is providing more workforce housing options. WBA had met with both LeMahieu and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos earlier this spring to talk about workforce housing and provide some options to be considered.

One obstacle to addressing this issue is the fact that both have stated that no new dollars will be allocated by either the assembly or senate to close out the legislative session.

The concept of a workforce housing TIF would not cost the state any dollars but has several state senators who have worked again this concept in the past.

**Trends in Housing Conference to Be Held November 9 in Fond du Lac**

The second annual Trends in Housing Conference will be held on November 9 at Hotel Retlaw in Fond du Lac.

The event schedule is:

8:00AM - 8:40AM: Registration/Continental Breakfast

Welcome Address

8:45AM - 9:45AM: Future of Trades in Wisconsin

Dr. Morna Foy, Wisconsin Technical College System President

9:50AM - 10:50AM: Wisconsin’s Current Real Estate & Housing Conditions

Mark Eppli, Director of Graaskamp Center for Real Estate; UW-Madison

10:55AM - 11:55AM: Housing Forecasting & Analysis

Danushka Nanayakkara-Skillington; NAHB Assistant Vice President

Lunch

1:15PM - 2:15PM: Panel Discussion - Building/Development, Code Issues, Assessments

Developer/Realtor: Pat Kaster

Builder: David Belman

Appraiser: TBD

Inspector: Scott Satula

Cost to attend is only $75 per member. [Click here](https://www.wisbuild.org/wba-events/2021/housing) for more information and to register.

# FROM NAHB: [What Does the Recent WOTUS Rule Change Mean for Your Projects?](https://nahbnow.com/2021/09/what-does-the-recent-wotus-rule-change-mean-for-your-projects/)

As NAHBNow [previously reported](https://nahbnow.com/2021/09/epa-declares-pre-2015-wotus-rule-now-in-effect/), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies) recently halted implementation of the “waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) regulatory definition as finalized under the Trump administration’s Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR), reverting back to a pre-2015 WOTUS regulatory definition.

The Sept. 3 announcement was an abrupt reversal because the agencies had previously committed to a series of public hearings, followed by a two-step federal rulemaking process, during which time the WOTUS regulatory definition as finalized under the NWPR was to remain in effect nationwide.

To help builders and developers understand how to move forward with ongoing or planned projects, NAHB developed FAQs to provide interim (unofficial) guidance based upon the Clean Water Act (CWA) statute, existing regulatory guidance documents, and past practices by the agencies during previous instances of changing interpretations of the WOTUS regulatory definition.

NAHB will continue to press the agencies for additional guidance concerning the status of the ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona to vacate the NWPR, timing of expected field hearings by the agencies on a new WOTUS definition, and a timeframe for when the Biden administration will propose a new WOTUS regulatory definition under the CWA.

You can [access the WOTUS FAQs](https://www.nahb.org/advocacy/industry-issues/environment/waters-of-the-us/wotus-faq) on nahb.org.

For more information, contact Mike Mittelholzer.