

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

March 20, 2019

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:30 am. Committee members Matt Foelker (Chairperson), Walt Christensen (Vice-Chairperson), Ed Morse (Secretary), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), Mike Kelly (UWEX Member), Frank Anfang (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (Public Member) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; LaVern Georgson, UWEX; and Cody Calkins, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

- Members of the Public in Attendance: Kirsten Jurczek, Anita Martin

2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Review of the March Agenda:

The March agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Watkins exchanged Item #17 with Item #20 with no objection from the Committee.

5. Approval of the February 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the February 20, 2019 meeting minutes as written, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

- Anita Martin asked LWCC to discuss the Rock Lake Improvement Association 10 year plan at the April LWCC Meeting.
- Kirsten Jurczek asked that the June 19, 2019 Farm Tour be discussed at the April LWCC Meeting. Jurczek asked to be added to the agenda.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) March 2019 Report.
- Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast Sponsorship. Kelly made a motion to accept the sponsorship proposal, Anfang seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Calkins discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report.

9. Discussion on WI Land+Water Annual Conference Overview:

Watkins informed the Committee that all three resolutions discussed at the conference were accepted unanimously and will be sent to the state.

10. Discussion on Potter's Field:

Watkins updated the committee on Potter's Field and discussed the letter from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

11. Discussion on Farm Technology Days - LaVern Georgson:

Georgson discussed Farm Tech Days and measures that have been taken to date. The search for volunteers for the various tents is ongoing. Farm Tech Days will be in July 2019. Watkins solicited ideas on the LWCC informational booth at Farm Tech Days.

12. Discussion on 4th Grade Farm Tour:

4th Grade Farm Tour is likely the first week of May 2019 at Kutz Dairy Farm. This will be updated as more information is available.

13. Discussion on Departmental Transition:

Watkins to retire as of March 26, 2019. Transition for an interim Department Head is being discussed by Admin and HR.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): There were no notices.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP: There were no cancellations.

16. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (January):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures (January) was distributed.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE)

Applications: Kokkonen will be finalizing application documents to present to state NRCS by the April 2019 deadline.

18. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements: Kokkonen will begin the required monitoring from May into June.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Solar Farms, Rock Lake 10 Year Plan, Rotational Grazing

20. Discussion on Drone Use and Possible Demonstration (weather dependent):

Kokkonen gave a Power Point Presentation of drone use and showed the committee some of the useful features and mapping products.

21. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- April 17, 2019 @ 8:30 in Room 112

22. Adjournment:

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD