

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

July 17, 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), Dan Herbst (UWEX), Mike Kelly (UWEX), Frank Anfang (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (Member) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Interim Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; and Joe Strupp, LWCD. Ed Morse (Secretary) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: Ronni Monroe, Anita Martin, Frankie Fuller

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 July Agenda:

The July agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

5. Approval of the June 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Anfang made a motion to approve the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes as written, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

Martin commented on the Executive Committee discussing the possibility of the UW Extension Committee combining with the Land & Water Conservation Committee at their most recent meeting.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection July 2019 Report.
- Jefferson County Diary Breakfast Thank You Letter.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:

Kokkonen is waiting to hear from NRCS in regard to an application that was sent to their legal department. Purchased easement monitoring is complete, donated easements will be done in conjunction with Non-Metallic Mining monitoring. Burlingham mentioned a meeting being held on Wednesday July 24, and coordinated by Allison Volk of American Farmland Trust to discuss reinstating state easement funding. Burlingham will report outcomes at next month's meeting.

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS didn't attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero updated the committee on departmental operations: transect survey is complete, spot check field work is complete, an endangered fish (slender madtom) was documented in Rock Lake and staff took part in an educational tour of Rock Lake.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on County Farm Tile System:

An estimate has been submitted and accepted to fix some of the aging tile system at the County Farm. Work will begin early next week and should take about 3 days.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Land and Water Conservation Department Fees:

Cicero outlined the possible changes to department fees. Christensen made a motion to accept the fees as proposed, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

13. Discussion on 2020 Budget:

Cicero discussed the preliminary 2020 Budget, including an increase to the Staffing & Operations Grant from the State.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Verdal Anderson, Jeffery & Laurie Koellen, Beatrice Peyer, David Raether, David & Kathryn Stelse, Joseph Hillebrand (Voluntary)

Anfang made a motion to accept the notices, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:

There were no cancellations.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: No new agenda items were proposed.

18. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- August 21, 2019 @ 8:30 am in Room 112

19. Drone Demonstration - Kokkonen:

Kokkonen gave a drone demonstration.

20. Adjournment:

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 am, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

*Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD*