

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## February 19, 2020

### 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), and Margaret Burlingham (Member) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Interim Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Jim Schroeder, County Board Chairman (@ 8:43); Cody Calkins, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); and Dave Terrall, Wildlife Damage. JoAnn Davis (FSA Rep) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: 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 February Agenda:

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

### 5. Approval of the December 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the December 18, 2019 meeting minutes as written, Morse seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

The Committee received public comment on an item that was not on the agenda.

### 7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection February 2020 Report.
- Town of Palmyra, Proposed Lowland Drive Discontinuance Public Hearing, February 29 at 10 am

### 8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2019 Animal Damage Claims - Dave Terrall:

Terrall discussed the Jefferson County Wildlife Damage Program 2019 Claim Summary. Kelly made a motion to accept the claims, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Calkins discussed upcoming NRCS program deadlines: EQIP and general CRP signup, 2/28/2020. Conservation Stewardship Program, 3/20/2020.

### 10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero is following proposed legislation that would move review of livestock siting applications to DATCP instead of the County. Cicero submitted the required annual report to DATCP. Cicero submitted the Healthy Lakes Grant application. Cicero attended two Focus Group meetings (Agricultural & Natural Resources) for the update to the Comprehensive Plan and Agricultural Preservation Plan. Allison Volk continues to keep in contact with Cicero in regard to the Wisconsin farmland loss numbers and a presentation to the LWCC.

**11. Discussion on County Farm Tile System and Repair:**

Evaluation and repair of the County Farm tile system is ongoing.

**12. Discussion on Combining Land & Water Conservation Committee with University Extension**

**Education Committee:** The Executive Committee intends to make a formal recommendation to the County Board to combine the LWCC and UWEX Committees to begin in the new term.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on 2020 LWCD Budget Amendment for the Multi-Discharger**

**Variance:** Christensen made a motion to forward the resolution amending the budget to the County Board for discussion during their March meeting, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

**14. Discussion on Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development Technical Assistance:**

Jefferson County LWCD provided a letter of support (for in-kind office space and staff time) for Glacierland RC&D's grant application to fund a part-time RC&D staff person to work on conservation practice education and technical assistance in Jefferson County.

**15. Discussion on American Farmland Trust Proposed Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant to Support Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements:**

Cicero & Burlingham discussed the Partnership Program Grant with Allison Volk from American Family Trust. The grant is an anticipated five million dollars statewide to help fund PACE.

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

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

There were no cancellations.

**18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (December):**

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

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

There are no new applications.

**20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

No new agenda items were proposed.

**21. Next Scheduled Meeting:**

- March 18, 2020 @ 8:30 am in Room 112

**22. Adjournment:**

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.