

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

May 20, 2020

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Patricia Cicero at 8:30 am. Committee members Matt Foelker and John Kannard were present with Margaret Burlingham, Walt Christensen, Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), Mike Kelly (UWEX Member), and JoAnn Davis (FSA Rep) present via Zoom. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Interim Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; with Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; and Alison Volk, American Farmland Trust via Zoom.

- Others in Attendance via Zoom: Janet Faust, Frankie Fuller, Anita Martin, and Dyan Pasano

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. Election of Officers:

Chairperson: Christensen made a motion to elect Foelker Chairperson, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

Chairperson: Kelly made a motion to elect Christensen Chairperson, there was no second. Motion failed.

Vice-Chairperson: Kannard made a motion to elect Christensen Vice-Chairperson, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

Secretary: Christensen made a motion to elect Kelly Secretary, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

5. Set Future Meeting Schedule:

The Land & Water Conservation Committee meetings will remain on the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am in Room 112.

6. Review of the May Agenda:

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

7. Approval of the February 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes as written, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

8. Public Comment:

Faust voiced her concerns about the second part of #9, Pasano may have questions about #9.

9. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection March, April & May 2020 Reports.
- Land Spreading of Milk.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant Application -

Alison Volk, American Farmland Trust: Volk discussed the partnership grant. Christensen made a motion to go forward with the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant Application, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

11. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

12. Discussion on Land & Water Conservation Department Overview:

Cicero discussed the department authorities, duties and personnel. LWCD staff will attend future meetings to give an overview of their respective positions.

13. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

All of the LWCD staff is working entirely from home, with the exception of Liakopoulos. The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 - 12:00. Field work at this time is limited. Cicero is awaiting guidance from the DNR on how to proceed with citizen volunteer programs including lake and stream monitoring and the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Spot check will be taking place the first week of June with proper precautions. The 2021 Staffing and Operations grant has been submitted. The 2019/2020 Tree Sale is complete.

14. Discussion on Land & Water Resources Management Plan:

Updates to the plan are ongoing. Cicero inquired about a possible extension of the October deadline which was not preferred by DATCP. Cicero will talk to DATCP again to determine how to proceed.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Appointments:

- Blue Spring Lake Management District (Board Term) - Walt Christensen
- Lake Ripley Management District (Board Term) - Walt Christensen
- Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (Board Term) - Walt Christensen

Kannard made a motion to confirm the appointments, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Voluntary; Gordon & Linda Gottschalk, Martin Jaeger

Kannard made a motion to accept the notices, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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

There were no cancellations.

18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (March):

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: Kokkonen spoke with NRCS and two easements in Wisconsin will be funded this year; one at 100% the other at 50%. Letters will be sent to purchased and donated easement landowners in regard to LWCD yearly monitoring. Kokkonen is talking with a current easement landowner in regard to selling the property.

20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: 2019/2020 Tree Sale report

- Next Scheduled Meeting: June 17, 2020 @ 8:30 am in Room 112

21. Adjournment:

Dan Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 am, Walt Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.