

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

August 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), John Kannard (UWEX Member), and Margaret Burlingham were present. Walt Christensen (Vice-Chairperson), Mike Kelly (Secretary), and JoAnn Davis (FSA Rep) (@ 8:35) and Alison Volk, American Farmland Trust were present via Zoom. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD. Dan Herbst (UWEX Member) was absent.

- 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 August Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the July 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Burlingham made a motion to approve the July 15, 2020 meeting minutes as written, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection August 2020 Report.

8. Discussion on Farms Under Threat Report - Jefferson County Data - Alison Volk, American Farmland Trust:

- Interactive maps - select Wisconsin in upper right: <https://csp-fut.appspot.com/>

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

More cost-share projects are in the works including a well decommissioning and a manure storage closure. The meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Land and Water Resources Management Plan has been scheduled in September.

11. Discussion on Department Annual Report:

Cicero discussed the annual report, the report's new format, and the 2020 distribution procedure.

12. Discussion on 2021 Department Budget:

Cicero discussed the preliminary 2021 Budget, including the preparation of 3 budget scenarios with expenditure decreases, as well as the possibility of not funding the Water Resources Management Specialist position.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Lake Protection and Monitoring Network Funding:

Cicero discussed the lake protection and monitoring network funding, that includes funds for aquatic invasive species work. Christensen made a motion to pursue Lake Protection and Monitoring Network Funding as presented, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

14. Discussion on Land & Water Resources Management Plan:

Updates to the plan are ongoing. An extension was granted. The completed plan will be due February 2021. LWCD staff will be meeting with the advisory committee consisting of local famers, crop consultants, an Ag lender, and agency personnel September 9, 2020.

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

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

There were no cancellations.

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

Reports for all of the four purchased easements have been sent to NRCS and DATCP. Copies will be sent to the property owners this week. NRCS has asked that we involve our Resource Conservations in monitoring and compliance when there are questions with nutrient management and soil erosion. This should also be included in our monitoring procedure documentation.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: 2021 Budget, Land & Water Resources Management Plan, and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant Application Letter of Support

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** September 16, 2020 @ 8:30 am in Room 205

20. Adjournment:

Kannard made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 am, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 6/0.