

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

October 21, 2020

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:30 am. Committee members Matt Foelker (Chairperson), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), and John Kannard (UWEX Member) were present. Walt Christensen (Vice-Chairperson), Mike Kelly (Secretary), JoAnn Davis (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep) were present via Zoom. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and David Terrall, Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program.

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin, Frankie Fuller (via Zoom)

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 October Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the September 16, 2020 meeting minutes as written, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

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

8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2021 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program Budget Approval; David Terrall, Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:

Christensen made a motion to approve the 2021 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims budget, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2020 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program Crop Price Approval; David Terrall, Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:

Herbst made a motion to accept the 2020 Wildlife Damage Abatement crop prices and 90% harvested crops no later than December 15, 2020, Kannard seconded Motion passed 7/0.

10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Cicero discussed NRCS information sent from Cody Calkins, Soil Conservationist with NRCS. A temporary district conservationist, Tonya Pautzke, has been assigned to Jefferson County. NRCS Wisconsin has announced their Environmental Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP) for 2021. The deadline for this program is 11/21/2020.

11. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

The annual tree sale has started, gravel pit monitoring is complete, Liakopoulos is assisting the County Health Department with data entry, work continues on updating the Land & Water Resources Management Plan including planning for a public hearing, and the letter of support including matching funds was submitted to American Farmland Trust for the grant application that could increase funding for the PACE program.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Transfer of Nutrient Management Cost Share Funds to Green County: Herbst made a motion to approve the transfer of nutrient management cost share funds to Green County, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

13. Discussion on 2021 Department Budget:

Cicero informed the committee that the Finance Department has approved funding for a half-time Water Resources position with full benefits for 2021.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on County Farm Lease Extension Resolution:

Herbst made a motion to accept the County Farm lease extension resolution, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 6/1 with Kelly voting against the 3 year extension and recommending a one year extension.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Department of Natural Resources Lake Protection and Monitoring Network Grant Resolution: Herbst made a motion to accept the grant resolution, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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:

James & Barbara Reek

Herbst made a motion to accept the notice, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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

Gerry Kokkonen has finished on-site monitoring of the donated easements and will file reports with landowners.

19. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (August):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Courthouse remodel

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** November 18, 2020 @ 8:30 am in Room 205

21. Adjournment:

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

*Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD*