

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

May 19, 2021

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), Mike Kelly (Secretary), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), John Kannard (UWEX Member), and Kirsten Jurcek (FSA Rep) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD. Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: 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 May Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection May 2021 Report.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS didn't attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable. Jurcek notified the committee that the NRCS District Conservationist for Jefferson & Rock Counties will be David Gundlach, from Rock County, starting October 1, 2021. NRCS plans to hire a Senior Soil Conservationist for Jefferson County sometime in 2021.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

The county farm tile drain repair is complete. The Wisconsin Land & Water Southern Area Association regional meeting will be 5/27/2021 on Zoom. FPP spot check of the north east quadrant will begin the last week of May. Susan Graham, Water Resources Management Specialist for the WI DNR is retiring this summer. Cicero & Marisa Ulman will be performing an aquatic plant survey on Lower Spring Lake prior to a chemical treatment for invasive species.

10. Discussion on Jefferson County Soil Builders:

Cicero will be drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with the Jefferson County Soil Builders to submit to the committee for approval. This agreement is necessary to make the LWCD the fiscal agent for the Jefferson County Soil Builders.

11. Discussion on Non-Metallic Mining Permit Application:

Kokkonen gave an overview of the Non-Metallic Mining program. A new permit application has been received by the county. Kokkonen outlined the new application and discussed the process of approving the application.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Franz & Vickie Weigand, Larry & Lori Willing

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

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

There were no cancellations.

14. Discussion on NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant in Partnership with American Farmland Trust:

American Farmland Trust and NRCS will partner on a project to accelerate farmland protection in Wisconsin through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Cicero will write a press release to let Jefferson County farmers know about the program and the new funding.

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

Kokkonen and a representative from the state NRCS office met at the Hausz property on May 18th to inspect the landowner's clean-up efforts. These efforts will allow the PACE application to move forward for this funding cycle. The committee was asked to recommend the application move forward and an appraisal of the easement property to be ordered by LWCD. Herbst made the motion to order and pay for the appraisal, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Tree Sale Report

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** June 16, 2021 @ 8:30 in Room 205

18. Adjournment:

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

*Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD*