

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

June 16, 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) (@ 8:35) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Marisa Ulman, LWCD. Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep) was present via Zoom.

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin (in person) and 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 June Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the May 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the May 19, 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 (DATCP) June 2021 Report.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

9. Discussion on State and County Budget Process:

Cicero discussed the State and County Budget process with the committee.

For County Conservation Staff, DATCP requested a permanent base of \$13 million dollars. The State Joint Finance Committee approved \$11,030,000 for 2022 and \$11,280,000 for 2023. The next steps are legislative action and the Governor's approval.

The County Finance Committee budget meetings begin 9/13/2021. The preliminary budget will be presented to the County Board 10/12/2021.

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Farmland Preservation Program spot check of the north east quadrant will be finished at the end of the week, Cicero is working with Nancy Lannert & Joe Strupp to draft a cover crop and pasture establishment cost share contract, and the transect survey is complete.

11. Discussion on 2020/2021 Tree Sale Program Report:

Liakopoulos gave an overview of the tree sale program report and answered Committee questions.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution to Authorize the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Early Detection Response Grant:

Ulman is working with a landowner to mitigate invasive phragmites on two acres in the County. The grant will provide the restoration funds to remove this troublesome plant.

Burlingham made a motion to forward the grant to the County Board for approval, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Voluntary: Bruce Ehlers

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

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

There were no cancellations.

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

LWCD has received the PACE application fee from the landowner. NRCS State office is reviewing the application documents.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Jefferson County Soil Builders, a producer led watershed grazing group, highway department weed spraying, and the County Farm tile drain repair.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** July 21, 2021 @ 8:30 in Room 205

18. Adjournment:

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 am, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

*Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD*