

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

July 21, 2021

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:35 am. Committee members Matt Foelker (Chairperson), Walt Christensen (Vice-Chairperson), Mike Kelly (Secretary), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), John Kannard (UWEX Member), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Marisa Ulman, LWCD.

- 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 July Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the June 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the June 16, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Kelly seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

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

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS did not attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates and Annual Report:

Members of the LWCD are attending Comprehensive Plan implementation meetings, the 2021/2022 Tree Sale order has been placed, LWCD Annual Report will be presented to the County Board at their August meeting.

Resource Conservationist Nancy Lannert is retiring after 19 years with Jefferson County.

10. Discussion on State and County Budget:

The State Legislature and Governor approved \$11,030,000 for 2022 and \$11,280,000 for 2023 as proposed by DATCP.

The County Budget is progressing. The LWCD preliminary budget is due the first week of August.

11. Discussion on Jefferson County Soil Builders:

Cicero discussed the Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) meeting that she attended with Joe Strupp from the LWCD. Cicero is preparing a Memorandum of Understanding between Jefferson County and JCSB in order to have the County be JCSB's fiscal agent.

A meet and greet will be held between the JCSB and local lake groups at Brew with a View Thursday, July 22nd from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

12. Discussion on Producer-Led Grazing Group:

Jurcek discussed a producer-led grazing group.

13. Discussion on Cover Crop and Pasture Establishment Cost Share Program:

Cicero discussed a new cover crop and pasture establishment cost share program.

14. Discussion on Invasive Plant Management Assistance for the Highway Department:

Ulman is assisting the Highway Department staff to identify invasive plants vs. native plants, providing advice on an annual spraying and mowing program, and is investigating training options to better manage and prevent the spread of existing invasive populations.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): Ryann Butz, C&J Hutchins Trust, Steven & Lori Leary, Timothy Neitzel, Robert Silberhorn, Dennis Stanek, Thomas & Catherine Tackman.

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

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:

Landowner's application and all current documentation have been sent to NRCS. Estimates for a Real Estate Market Appraisal have been received.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Farmer-Led Grazing Group, Invasive Plant Management, Jefferson County Soil Builders, LWCD Budget, and LWCD Fee Schedule approval.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** August 18, 2021 @ 8:30 in Room 202

20. Adjournment:

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