

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

October 20, 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), 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; Josh Butteris, LWCD; David Gundlach, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (via Zoom); and David Terrall, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

- 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 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the September 22, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

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

8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2021 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Crop Price

Approval: Christensen made a motion to accept the 2021 Wildlife Damage Abatement crop prices, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

Kelly made a motion that in order to qualify for the program 90% of the crops will need to be harvested no later than December 15, 2021, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2022 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget

Approval: Kannard made a motion to approve the 2022 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget, Kelly seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Gundlach discussed the NRCS report. Gundlach will be leaving NRCS 11/5/2021 for another position.

11. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Annual Tree Sale information has been sent out. Two LWCC approved resolutions for NRCS grants from the September meeting were approved by the County Board at their October meeting. LWCD staff has begun monitoring the cover crops that were cost shared through the multi-discharger variance program.

12. Introduction of the New Jefferson County Resource Conservationist Joshua Butteris:

Butteris was introduced to the committee. Butteris discussed his schooling, qualifications, and conservation work history.

13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders & Rock River Regenerative Grazers: Grants were submitted by both producer-led groups. Grant money will be awarded mid November 2021.

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

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP: There were no cancellations.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: Letters have been sent to people that have shown previous interest in PACE to encourage them to contact the LWCD if they want to move forward with an application. The state NRCS office has requested that preliminary application materials be submitted for PACE funding by the end of this calendar year for easement ranking.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Transfer of unused cost share funds.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** November 17, 2021 @ 8:30 in Room 205

19. Adjournment:

Kannard made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 am, Kelly seconded. Motion passed 7/0.