

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

December 15, 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) (@ 8:44 via Zoom), 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); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD.

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

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 December Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the November 17, 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 December 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:

The tree sale is going well and the Fraser Firs are sold out. LWCD staff is attending fall/winter trainings. Gerry Kokkonen has completed annual gravel pit inspections & the associated reports.

10. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders & Rock River Regenerative Grazers:

Both producer-led groups have submitted their grant applications and contracts are forthcoming.

11. Discussion on Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program Plan:

Cicero outlined the MDV program plan; including prioritizing watersheds and ranking cost share applications. Cicero also summarized the MDV funds received, used, and anticipated in 2022.

12. Discussion on Cover Crop & Pasture Establishment Program:

Cicero gave an overview of the Cover Crop & Pasture Establishment Program which works in connection with the MDV program.

13. Discussion on Recommendations for Possible Drainage Board Candidates:

The Drainage Board is looking for new members. Cicero asked the committee consider possible new member candidates. An updated explanation of Drainage Board duties will be shared January 2022.

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:

Weenonah Brattset Trust, Frank Trust, FS, LLC, Eugene & Betty Hasel Trust

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

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

An application has been submitted to NRCS, ranked, and tentatively accepted. More information will be available January 2022.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include:

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** January 19, 2021 @ 8:30 in Room 202

19. Adjournment:

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