

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

February 16, 2022

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; and Marisa Ulman, LWCD.

- Others in Attendance: Dave Terrall, USDA Wildlife Services, Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, and Anita Martin. Jeff Johns, Joan Callan, 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 February Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the December 15, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

The committee received public comment on an item that was not on the agenda in regard to having avian influenza information on the LWCD website.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection January & February 2022 Report.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2021 Claims for Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program – Dave Terrall, USDA Wildlife Services:

Terrall gave an overview of the program and the claim that was submitted. Herbst made a motion to accept the claim, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS didn't attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable. Cicero informed the committee that a new district conservationist has been appointed - Matt Miller will be taking over the acting district conservationist duties on 02.28.2022 and Andy Berndt is the new resource conservationist starting 02.14.2022.

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Only 2 species of trees remain for the sale, LWCD attended meetings for the Crawfish River Solar Project and the Ixonia WE Energies Liquid Natural Gas Plant Proposal, a new online system is now required for committee members to log their meeting attendance and mileage.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on LWCD Fees:

LWCD has proposed a rental fee update for the soil probe and tree spades. This new fee will cover the cost and shipment of unreturned items. Kannard made a motion to accept the proposed rates as presented, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Voting WI Land+Water Candidates to the State Land & Water Conservation Board:** Christensen made a motion to nominate the following candidates to the State Land & Water Conservation Board; Yogesh Chwala (Dane), Tom Mandli (Marinette), and Russell Rindsig (Barron), Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.
- 13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Grazers (R3G):** Both producer-led groups were awarded 2022 grants. JCSB will be hosting a field day 04.12.2022. A flyer and press release will be crafted. R3G is working on a calendar of events and hopes to present it at the next LWCC meeting.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Amendment for Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Producer-Led Grant:** Jurcek made a motion to accept the budget amendment for DATCP's producer-led grant to the JCSB, Kannard seconded. Motion passed 7/0.
- 15. Discussion on Managing Invasive Species on Roadsides and Public Spaces Workshop - Marisa Ulman, LWCD:** Ulman discussed the invasive species workshop that will be held 04.05.2022 at the Jefferson County Highway Department.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):** There were no notices.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:** There were no cancellations.
- 18. Discussion and Possible Action on Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):** American Farmland Trust grant funding was approved 01.07.2022. Gerry Kokkonen, Kevin Weismann, Cicero and Burlingham met to discuss areas to target, advertising the program, and updating the ranking process. More information will be available at the next LWCC meeting.
- 19. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** One application has been received, is in progress, and awaiting NRCS acceptance.
- 20. Discussion and Possible Action on Participation in the Fourth Grade Farm Tour:** Burlingham informed the committee that the Fourth Grade Farm Tour is back this year and will be held at Kutz Dairy Farm, 05.04.2022. Volunteers to give the Apple as the Earth demonstration are encouraged to contact Burlingham.
- 21. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (December 2021/Preliminary Year End):** The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.
- 22. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

Possible agenda items include: Fourth Grade Farm Tour

 - **Next Scheduled Meeting:** March 16, 2022 @ 8:30 in Room 202
- 23. Adjournment:**

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:48 am, Kelly seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD