

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

March 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), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), John Kannard (UWEX Member), and Kirsten Jurcek (FSA Rep) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Andy Berndt Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Mike Kelly (Secretary), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep) were absent.

- Others in Attendance: Jeff Johns, Joan Callan (via Zoom), Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, and Anita Martin (@ 8:37)

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 March Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Kannard made a motion to approve the February 16, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

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

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Andy Berndt, the newly assigned Resource Conservationist to the Jefferson field office, introduced himself to the committee.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Gerry Kokkonen will be moving to the Land Information/Zoning office as Senior Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist starting 3/28/22. Kokkonen will continue to work on some LWCD programs until a new LWCD position is determined. The trees are sold out for the 2022 planting season. LWCD staff have been working on a new Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) database. This is the last LWCC meeting before the election. An April meeting may be postponed until May to accommodate the new committee. Avian influenza has been found in Jefferson County. DATCP is

the state's point of contact for information, Jefferson County Emergency Management Department is the County's point of contact.

- 10. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Grazers (R3G):** JCSB has a field day 4/12/22. R3G has a field day 4/14/22. A JCSB field day flyer was handed out during the meeting and a flyer for R3G is going to be available shortly.
- 11. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):** There were no notices.
- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:**
Beatrice Peyer Trust

Kannard made a motion to accept the notice, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 5/0.
- 13. Discussion and Possible Action on Participation in the Fourth Grade Farm Tour:**
The Fourth Grade Farm Tour is 5/4/22. Christensen has volunteered to attend the tour. Cicero will contact Burlingham who may have another volunteer.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** There are no new applications. The current application is being reviewed by NRCS. Kokkonen, Burlingham, and Cicero are crafting a ranking sheet for the American Farmland Trust/NRCS grant that was awarded this year for conservation easements.
- 15. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (January):**
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed. Cicero pointed out that the drainage board has been added to LWCD's financials. The drainage board is independent from the County, but some of their finances are paid by the County.
- 16. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**
Possible agenda items include:
 - **Next Scheduled Meeting:** April 20, 2022 @ 8:30 in Room 202 - potentially in May due to elections and committee assignments.
- 17. Adjournment:**
Kannard made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

Committee member Kirsten Jurcek has been appointed to serve on this committee due to her status as the designated Farm Service Agency committee member. All her opinions and votes are as a member of the public and as a producer/farmer, not as a representative of the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, or Federal Government.

Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD