

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

May 18, 2022

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) at 8:30 am. Committee Members Margaret Burlingham (PACE), Walt Christensen, Matt Foelker (UW) (@ 9:00), Dan Herbst (UW), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA), Cassie Richardson, and Meg Turville-Heitz were present. Also in attendance: Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Gerry Kokkonen (@ 9:00), Land Information.

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin, Dean Weichmann (Jefferson County Soil Builders)

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. Election of Officers:

Chairperson: Herbst made a motion to elect Christensen Chairperson, Jurcek seconded, Christensen declined the nomination. Motion failed.

Chairperson: Jurcek made a motion to elect Foelker Chairperson, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

Vice-Chairperson: Turville-Heitz made a motion to elect Christensen Vice-Chairperson, Jurcek seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

5. Set Future Meeting Schedule:

Postponed per Vice-Chair Christensen until Chairperson Foelker arrival.

6. Review of the May Agenda:

The May agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Vice-Chair Christensen postponed agenda item #5 until Chairperson Foelker was in attendance.

7. Approval of the March 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the March 16, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Jurcek seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

8. Public Comment:

Burlingham notified the committee that Farmland Easement brochures will be available to the public at the Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast. Christensen spoke about his attendance at the 4th Grade Farm Tour.

9. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection April & May 2022 Reports.

10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS didn't attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

11. Discussion on Land & Water Conservation Committee and Department Overview:

Cicero gave an overview of the department. Cicero also discussed committee authority, duties and personal, then answered committee questions.

12. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Gerry Kokkonen, formerly with LWCD, is now a GIS Specialist with the Land Information Department. Cicero is working on a job description for a new position within the LWCD office. LWCD staff met with two new Jefferson County UW Extension educators. Joe Strupp & Josh Butteris are working with the DNR and a

landowner who will be issued a Notice of Discharge. Strupp & Butteris are preparing for this year's Farmland Preservation spot check. Strupp & Butteris are working on the Multi-Discharger Variance cover crops and pasture establishment cost share program. The 2021/2022 tree sale is complete. Marisa Ulman is in the field training lake and stream monitors

(5.) Set Future Meeting Schedule:

The Land & Water Committee meetings will remain on the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association and Southern Area Association: Cicero outlined the objectives of WI Land+Water Association and Southern Area Association, then gave an overview of both organizations.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Nominating John Kannard for the Blue Spring Lake Management District and the Lower Spring Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District: Christensen made a motion to nominate John Kannard to the Blue Spring Lake Management District and the Lower Spring Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

15. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders & Rock River Regenerative Grazers: Weichmann discussed the 06.02.2022 Soil Builders Shop Talk. Rock River Regenerative Grazers has several upcoming events. This information will be shared with the committee during upcoming meetings.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution Amending the 2022 Land & Water Conservation Department Budget: Cicero reviewed a resolution with the committee amending the 2022 LWCD budget. Jurcek made a motion to accept the resolution, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Voluntary - Robert & Lorraine Knaack, Jason & Jennifer Schroedl

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

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance - FPP:

William & Patricia Hying

Richardson made a motion to accept the notice, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: Kokkonen informed the committee that the current PACE application will be on the June meeting agenda. Another landowner has submitted an easement interest form and their application will be submitted for the American Farmland Trust Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding.

~Turville-Heitz exited the meeting @ 10:10 am~

20. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (March):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Jefferson County Fair Booth

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** June 15, 2022 @ 8:30 in Room 202

22. Adjournment:

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 10:15 am, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

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