

# **Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes**

## **June 15, 2022**

### **1. Call to Order:**

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

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin (via Zoom), Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, and Gerry Kokkonen, Jefferson County Land Information

### **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 June Agenda:**

Foelker moved agenda items #13 and #14 to follow agenda item #6.

### **5. Approval of the May 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

Turville-Heitz made a spelling correction in item #17 of the May 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Christensen made a motion to approve the May 18, 2022 meeting minutes with the correction, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### **6. Public Comment:**

There were no comments.

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

James Alexander, Frank & Patricia Anfang, James & Susan Schroedl Trust, Jerome & Connie Skalitzky Voluntary - Leroy & Donna Nelson Trust

Herbst made a motion to accept the notices, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### **(14.) Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:**

There were no cancellations.

### **7. Communications:**

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection June 2022 Report. Cicero pointed out that a DATCP intern will be working with Butteris to monitor Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) easements this summer.

### **8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:**

NRCS didn't attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable. Cicero informed the committee that Matt Miller is the new District Conservationist for Jefferson & Rock Counties. The deadline for 2023 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding is 11/4/22. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application deadline hasn't been announced yet.

**9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:**

Butteris & Strupp have been working on Farmland Preservation Program spot checks. Ulman is working with landowners on the Healthy Lakes & Rivers program. Cicero is touring possible temporary office space for the courthouse renovation. The LWCD will provide program flyers at the UW Extension fair booth. In July LWCC, Solid Waste Committee, the Board of Health, and the Executive Committee will meet to discuss the role of the State and County in air and water regulations associated with large animal farms.

**10. Discussion on New Position in the Department:**

Cicero outlined the process involved in creating a new position in the department and is working on a position description. This position will fill a gap left by Kokkonen's departure from LWCD and will expand the position to cover growing needs for restoration and monitoring work.

**11. Discussion on Aquatic Invasive Species Projects:**

Ulman outlined her work on aquatic invasive species education and outreach. Ulman implemented a training for Jefferson County departments, townships, and municipalities to identify invasive species and how to curb their spread in parks and right of ways.

**12. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders & Rock River Regenerative Graziers:**

Weichmann gave an overview of the Soil Builders field day earlier in June. Jurcek updated the committee on the Graziers schedule of events.

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

Kokkonen updated the committee on the status of two current applications. The Cummings application is ready for an appraisal. Herbst made a motion to order an appraisal of the Cummings property, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

**16. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the LWCD Director to Sign Agricultural Conservation Easement Applications and Contract Documents:**

Herbst made a motion to authorize the LWCD Director to sign agricultural conservation easement applications and contract documents, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

**17. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (April):**

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

**18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

Possible agenda items include: agenda item #10, annual tree sale report

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** July 20, 2022 @ 8:30 in Room 202

**19. Adjournment:**

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 10:20 am, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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*