

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

July 20, 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) (via Zoom), Cassie Richardson, Meg Turville-Heitz (@ 8:31), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD.

- Others in Attendance: none

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 July Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the June 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the June 15, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection July 2022 Report.
- WI Land+Water Land Conservation Committee Handbook 2022-2024

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Annual spot check of the southeast quadrant is complete. Joe Strupp is writing status reviews and updating conservation plans for these farms. Josh Butteris has left the LWCD and taken a job out of state. The resource conservationist position has been posted and applications are being reviewed. Cicero & Marisa Ulman attended a meeting with the City of Lake Mills to discuss updating their comprehensive plan as it pertains to natural resources. Cicero and Strupp are working with the City of Watertown to determine how the LWCD can assist with a water quality trading program to reduce phosphorus. Cicero and Turville-Heitz attended the statewide County Conservation meeting.

10. Discussion on New Position in the Department:

Cicero will meet with LWCD staff and other departments to discuss the job description for the new position within the LWCD.

11. Discussion on Annual Tree Sale and 2021/2022 Report:

Cicero and Liakopoulos discussed the annual tree sale and gave an overview of the 2021/2022 report.

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

Jurcek discussed upcoming Rock River Regenerative Graziers events. Cicero discussed the Jefferson County Soil Builders field day on August 12th.

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

Art & Adee Farm LLC, Matt & Michelle Gottschalk, Hiddingemeeden Trust, Hoogeland Holding LLC, Howard Poulson, Donald Schultz, Robert Schultz, Thomas & Catherine Tackman, David & Sally Waddell

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

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:

There were no cancellations.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: The appraisal for the Cummings farm has been ordered. The Rosenthal application is ready for the landowner's signature.

16. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (May):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: solar farms in the county

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** August 17, 2022 @ 8:30 in Room 202

18. Adjournment:

Burlingham made a motion to adjourn at 9:46 am, Christensen 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