

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

August 17, 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 (via Zoom), Meg Turville-Heitz, Kirsten Jurcek (FSA) (@ 8:31), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE) (@ 8:33), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Andy Berndt, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin, Frankie Fuller

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 August Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the July 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the July 20, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Approval of the July 20, 2022 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the July 20, 2022 Joint Committee meeting minutes as written, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

7. Public Comment:

Frankie Fuller: Eco Summit hosted by Heart of the City 10/15/2022 at the Hoard Historical Museum.

8. Communications:

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

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Andy Berndt: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign up deadline is 11/04/2022, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign up deadline is 2/10/2023.

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Next steps for the Joint Committee involve staff getting a list of questions and discussion points together to be reviewed at the October meetings with each individual committee. Crawfish River Solar has been asked to attend the September LWCC meeting. Cicero attended a meeting at the Governor's residence for a shoreland native planting project that will take place in September. Cicero & Marisa Ulman are going to give a presentation at the Legendary Learning event sponsored by Rock Lake Improvement Association. Strupp has been working on contracts for the cover crop cost share program. Applicants for the resource conservationist position have been interviewed and the position will be offered this week. More details will be available on the new position after a joint meeting with staff from LWCD, Parks, and Zoning, along with Human Resources and Administration. Cicero and Strupp continue to work with the City of Watertown on a program to reduce phosphorus. Cicero is working on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) re-enrollments with NRCS.

11. Discussion on Farmland Preservation Program - Joe Strupp:

Strupp gave an overview of the Farmland Preservation Program and answered committee questions.

12. Discussion on LWCD Budget:

Cicero discussed the 2023 LWCD Budget and answered committee questions.

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

Jurcek updated the committee on public outreach opportunities and upcoming field days. Jurcek is working on next year's Graziers' grant. Strupp attended the Soil Builders field day (8/12/2022) held at Burlingham's farm. The Soil Builders met on 8/16/2022 to start working on their 2023 grant application. Cicero informed the committee that a Shop Talk will be held by the Soil Builders 9/8/2022.

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

Voluntary - Robert & Beverly Kemmerling

Christensen made a motion to accept the notice, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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

There were no cancellations.

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

The Cummings appraisal has been scheduled for October. Rollefson will sign the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) application on 08/17/2022, and necessary documents are being prepared for review by NRCS.

17. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (June):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Crawfish River Solar Planting Plans

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** September 21, 2022 @ 8:30 in Room 202

19. Adjournment:

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 am, Burlingham 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