

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## September 21, 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) (@ 8:32 via Zoom), Cassie Richardson (@8:33 via Zoom), 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; Marisa Ulman, LWCD; and Gerry Kokkonen, Land Information (@ 8:42)

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin, Frankie Fuller (via Zoom)

### 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 September Agenda:

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

### 5. Approval of the August 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

### 7. Communications:

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

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

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

### 9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD hired a resource conservationist. LWCD's new position description has been approved by the Human Resources Committee and will be sent to the County Board for approval at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cicero has been working with Farm Service Agency (FSA) on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) reenrollments. LWCD is packing up to move at the end of September during the courthouse remodel.

### 10. Discussion on the Crawfish River Solar Vegetation Plan - Randy Bermke, Alliant Energy:

Bermke discussed the current Crawfish River Solar Vegetation Plan draft and answered committee questions about the solar project.

### 11. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Healthy Lakes Grant:

Ulman outlined the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Healthy Lakes Grant. Jurcek made a motion to send the resolution to the County Board for approval, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a WI DNR Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant:** Ulman outlined the WI DNR Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant. Turville-Heitz made a motion to send the resolution to the County Board for approval, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on Transfer of Cost Share Funds:**

Cicero discussed the possibility of transferring unused Department of Agriculture cost share funds to other counties at the end of the year. There is no transfer currently. Christensen made a motion to approve the transfer of unused Department of Agriculture cost share funds to other counties at the discretion of the LWCD department head, Jurcek seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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

Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G) have submitted their producer-led grant application to the Department of Agriculture. Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) have submitted their producer-led grant application to the Department of Agriculture. Both groups have upcoming field days and shop talks. R3G is planning an on-farm dinner in October. JCSB plans to continue its cover crops cost share program next year. The groups are planning to collaborate on a rainfall simulator demonstration.

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

There were no notices.

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

There were no cancellations.

~Herbst exited the meeting @ 9:40 am~

**17. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** Kokkonen has finished annual paid easement monitoring and sent the reports to NRCS. The Cummings appraisal came back higher than anticipated. NRCS and County funding will need to be adjusted. The Rollefson easement is ongoing. The title search will be ordered and the NRCS paperwork completed.

**18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (July):**

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

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

Possible agenda items include: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) discussion

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** October 19, 2022 @ 8:30 in Room TBD

**20. Adjournment:**

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 10:03 am, Burlingham 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*