

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

October 19, 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 (@8:35), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA) (@ 8:40), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; Matt Zangl, Director, Planning & Zoning/Land Information; James Zumstein, Planning & Zoning; Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; J. Blair Ward, County Corporation Counsel (via Zoom); Whitney DeVoe, Assistant County Corporation Counsel; Elizabeth Chilsen, Director/Officer, County Health Department; and David Terrall, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

- Others in Attendance: Cole Ciochon, Daybreak Foods; Katy Katzman, Katzman Farms; Allan & Katie Kutz, Kutz Dairy; Ron Kutz, Kutz Dairy; and Kim Naber, Back Road Beef. Also, Joan Callan, George Jaeckel, Anita Martin, Dyan Pasono, and Amy Rinard.
- Others in Attendance via Zoom: Frankie Fuller, Jeff Johns, Mike Kelly, Sue Marx, Laura Payne, and Chad Zuleger

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 October Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Richardson made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

The following people spoke regarding item #13: Laura Payne, Amy Rinard, Dyan Pasono.

Anita Martin asked to reserve her comments to be discussed during item #13. Foelker allowed.

7. Communications:

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

8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2023 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget Approval:

Richardson made a motion to approve the 2023 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget, Jurcek seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2022 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Crop Price Approval:

Christensen made a motion to accept the 2022 Wildlife Damage Abatement crop prices, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

Richardson made a motion that in order to qualify for the program 90% of the crops will need to be harvested no later than December 15, 2022, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

11. Introduction of the New Jefferson County Resource Conservationist, David Hoffman:

Hoffman introduced himself to the committee and gave an overview of his education and experience.

12. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD has moved to Woolen Mills during the courthouse remodel. Strupp and Hoffman are completing 2022 cover crop cost share contracts. County departments worked collaboratively to clean up the storage garage at the annex. LWCD is working with UW Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science & Education to design a ground water study. Marisa Ulman graduated from Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute. Cicero attended and presented at the Rock River Coalition workshop for volunteer water monitors and the public.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Air, Surface Water, Groundwater, and Health Concerns Relating to Animal Operations and their Regulation:

Wehmeier summarized information provided at the July 20, 2022 Joint Committee meeting and explained the handout for the current meeting. A discussion followed.

Turville-Heitz made a motion to advance three items to the appropriate committees for consideration:

#1 - Research a stormwater ordinance.

#2 - Establish a process for the LWCD to report on manure complaint investigation results.

#3 - Research the County's authority on regulating high-capacity wells.

Richardson seconded. Motion passed 6/1, Foelker opposed.

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

Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G) is wrapping up pasture walks for the season. Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) is planning a winter workshop. The cover crop cost share collaboration between the County and JCSB has been a success. Both producer-led groups have applied for 2023 grant funding.

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.

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

After the crops are off the fields, the Cummings farm will have a site survey. The next step for the Rollefson property is a title search. An interested party in Fort Atkinson has requested easement information.

18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (August):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Concerns Relating to Animal Operations and their Regulation (Item #13)

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** November 16, 2022 @ 8:30 in Highway Committee Room

20. Adjournment:

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn at 10:35 am, Jurcek 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