

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

November 16, 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), Cassie Richardson (@ 8:32), 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; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; Marisa Ulman, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, Land Information; and Andy Berndt, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Committee member Dan Herbst (UW) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Kevin Masarik, UW-Stevens Point & UW-Madison Division of Extension, Katy Katzman (@ 8:38), and Frankie Fuller (@ 9:04) via Zoom, and Antia Martin

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 November Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the October 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Burlingham made a motion to approve the October 19, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Jurcek seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

Martin gave public comment on item #10.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection November 2022 Report.
- Cicero informed the committee that the DATCP cost share fund transfers are complete.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Berndt discussed future NRCS funding made available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Joe Strupp and Hoffman are working on cover crop field checks and Liakopoulos is processing the cover crop contract reimbursements. Hoffman is moving into a new position within the department. LWCD has started the hiring process for a new resource conservationist. Marisa Ulman has submitted two grants to the DNR: Healthy Lakes Grant and Lake Monitoring & Protection Network Grant. A pheasant farm in Ixonia has been infected with Avian Influenza. The tree sale is ongoing with a few species now sold out. LWCD will be meeting with NRCS and Dane County to talk about a watershed plan and conservation practice implementation in the Koshkonong Creek watershed.

10. Discussion on Jefferson County Groundwater Quality Study:

Kevin Masarik, UW-Stevens Point & UW-Madison Division of Extension, spoke to the committee about a baseline ground water quality study in Jefferson County. The Finance Department will determine whether the study can be implemented with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. A discussion followed.

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

5 committees and their associated departments met and came up with a list of action items to be discussed. 1) Research on developing a stormwater ordinance. 2) Establish a process for LWCD to report on manure complaints. 3) Research the County's authority on regulating high-capacity

wells. 4) Research on developing composting ordinances (manure & mortalities). 5) Research aerial spreading of manure and other waste products. Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, and Steve Nass, County Board Chairman, will determine the next steps.

12. Discussion on Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Permitting Program - Gerald Kokkonen:

Kokkonen gave an overview of the non-metallic mining reclamation program and answered committee questions.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Application:

Cicero gave the committee a refresher of the MDV application process and highlighted the program. Turville-Heitz made a motion to submit the application for 2023 funds, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

14. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB submitted their grant in September and have been awarded \$30,800. JCSB is continuing their education and outreach efforts. JCSB and R3G along with 5 other producer-led groups in the area will collaborate on a winter workshop 12/1/2022 at UW Whitewater. R3G submitted their grant in September and have been awarded \$32,000. R3G will host pasture walks and provide startup funding for rotational grazers.

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

Voluntary - William & Barbara Schopen

Jurcek made a motion to accept the notice, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

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

There are no cancellations.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: The Cummings property farmstead area has been staked out and is ready for a certified plat survey by the County Surveyor. Kokkonen is awaiting clarification on the title search requirements for the Rollefson property from NRCS. An interested landowner requested application materials.

~Turville-Heitz exited the meeting @ 10:00 am~

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Invite Jordan Schuler, UWEX Crop Educator, and Alison Pfau, UWEX Dairy Educator to the December meeting.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** December 21, 2022 @ 8:30 in the Highway Committee Room

20. Adjournment:

Burlingham made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

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