

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

December 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) (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; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Dave Hoffman, LWCD (via Zoom). Cassie Richardson was excused.

- Others in Attendance: Jordan Schuler, Regional Crop Educator, UW Extension, and Anita 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 December Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

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

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS did not attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

9. Introduction of Jordan Schuler, Regional Crop Educator, and Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator:

Pfau was unable to attend. Cicero introduced Schuler to the committee. Schuler talked about the work that she has been doing with UW Extension, DNR and NRCS.

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

The 2023 Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) grant has been applied for. Cicero, Strupp, the Parks department, and the renter of the County farm met regarding removal of dead ash trees adjacent to the field. A larger setback from the Health Department/Human Services parking lot was also discussed to accommodate lawn maintenance. Cicero met the USDA and Dane County about potentially participating in a Watershed Protection Program for Koshkonong Creek. The details are still being worked out. Strupp and Hoffman are monitoring cover crops and getting the contracts ready for payment. The Finance

Committee approved the use of ARPA funds for the ground water study. County board approved a budget amendment for the 2023 LWCD budget to accommodate this change. The tree sale is going well. Three species (30 bundles) are all that remains.

11. Discussion on Manure Complaint Report:

Cicero and Strupp discussed the manure complaint report and answered committee questions.

12. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB & R3G hosted a workshop 12/01/22 at UW Whitewater. Cicero has been contacted by the Jefferson County newspaper regarding agriculture articles. Schuler is available to assist with the articles. The Nature Conservancy will be gifting \$10,000 to both JCSB and R3G in 2023. The producer-led groups will meet to discuss the best way to use the money.

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

There were no notices.

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: There are no new applications currently. The Committee discussed resolution no. 2008-15 which aims to establish a mechanism to fund farmland conservation easements.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include:

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** January 18, 2023 @ 8:30 in the Highway Committee Room. If there is nothing that requires action, the committee will forego a January meeting. Foelker will not be able to attend.

18. Adjournment:

Turville-Heitz made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 am, Foelker 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