

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD  
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**January 30, 2023**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Steve Nass at 10:00 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Board of Health**

Present: Dr. Jessica Coburn, Steve Nass, Meg Turville-Heitz, Dr. Don Williams

ZOOM: Samantha LaMuro,

**Executive Committee**

Present: Joan Fitzgerald, Steve Nass, Brandon White, Michael Wineke

Excused: Blane Poulson

**Land and Water Conservation Committee**

Present: Walt Christensen, Matt Foelker, Cassie Richardson, Meg Turville-Heitz

ZOOM: Kirsten Jurcek, Margaret Burlingham

ABSENT: Dan Herbst

**Planning and Zoning Committee**

Present: Matt Foelker, George Jaeckel, Steve Nass, Cassie Richardson

Excused: Blane Poulson

**Solid Waste Committee**

Present: Joan Callan, Mark Goose, Anita Martin, Robert Preuss

Excused: Jeff Johns

**Staff presenting:** Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; J. Blair Ward, Corporation Counsel; Elizabeth Chilsen, Health Officer/Director; Matt Zangl, Planning and Zoning Director; Patricia Cicero, Land and Water Conservation Director and, Joe Strupp, Resource Conservationist; and Donna Haugom, Emergency Management Director.

**Other staff present:** Brett Scherer, Sarah Elsner, and James Zumstein, Planning and Zoning Department; Audrey McGraw, County Clerk; and Brian Udovich, Highway Department; Melissa New, Communicable Disease, Public Health Nurse; David Hoffman, LWCD.

**Others present:** Katy Katzman, Adam Naber, Phillip Laatsch and Liz Darner, Phillips Crop Care; Keith Kulow and Cole Coochan, Daybreak Foods; Allan and Katie Kutz, Kutz Dairy; Mike and Sue Dettmann, Dettmann Dairy; Dylan Anchor, Nursing Student; Brad Griswold, Tag-Lane Dairy.

**Others present via ZOOM:** Leslie Ott, Dyan Pasono, Susan Bence, Janet Foust, Kirk Lund, Chad Zuleger, Sue Marx, Samroz Jakvani, Frankie Fuller, Carl Glassford, Tim Strobel, rosy-Lane Holsteins; Ronni Monroe, Sarana Stolar

**3. Certification of compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

**4. Review of Agenda**

No changes.

**5. Public Comment**

The following members of the public addressed the joint committee on the impact of CAFOs in Jefferson County:

Janet Foust, Dyan Pasono

6. **Discussion and staff presentation on Air, Surface Water, Groundwater, and Health concerns Relating to Animal Operations and their Regulation followed by possible action on:**

Wehmeier introduced a Presentation on the following topics. Q & A will take place at the end of each section.

a. Proposed reporting process for manure spills and complaints: A copy of the report was provided for review. Strupp went over the reporting process. Haugom said she receives the manure reports from the DNR and explained Emergency Management's role. Cicero spoke on the coordination between Land and Water Conservation and Emergency Management. No action taken.

b. Regulation of high-capacity wells: Ward went over the State Statutes and DNR rules. The county does not have any authority over high-capacity wells. Wehmeier said that there is not a policy in place for the county to address concerns related to high-capacity wells. If a policy was put in place, the County would need to set standards. Martin asked about GIS mapping of high-capacity wells.

**MOTION: Land and Water Conservation Committee** Motion by Turville-Heitz/Christensen to explore the use of GIS Mapping to determine the location of high-capacity wells along with other information available. Motion passed by Roll call vote.

c. Development of composting ordinance for manure and animal mortalities: Ward said that composting manure and animal mortalities are regulated by the DNR. Counties have limited authority to regulate through Shoreland and Floodplain ordinances. Cicero discussed input she received from area farms.

**MOTION: Solid Waste Committee** Motion by Callan/Martin for the Solid Waste Committee to pursue looking into further regulating composting and animal mortalities. Motion passed by roll call vote.

d. Regulation related to aerial spraying (spray irrigation) of manure and other industrial waste. Cicero talked about her research on spray irrigation, regulations that are in place, and a study conducted by the Wisconsin Manure Irrigation Workgroup. Ward said this is something that the county can regulate. Chilsen talked about microorganisms, pathogens, how exposure can occur, Health Department's role in communicable disease reporting and follow up, and data from a study on irrigation trial in Wisconsin. If it is decided that Jefferson County should regulate spray irrigation, a workgroup could be formed.

**MOTION: Board of Health** Motion by Williams/Turville-Heitz to pursue looking into spray irrigation and the ramifications on public health. Motion passed by roll call vote.

e. Development of an erosion control and storm water ordinance

Zangl discussed data he compiled from surrounding counties, cities, and towns. He also talked about the definitions of erosion control and storm water. Ward discussed the limited authority that counties have to regulate CAFOs. If it is decided that Jefferson County should further regulate erosion control and storm water, a workgroup could be formed.

**MOTION: Land and Water Conservation Committee** Motion by Turville-Heitz/Christensen to have the Land and Water Conservation Committee pursue looking into further regulating erosion control and storm water.

Motion amended by Turville-Heitz/Christensen to have three members from the Land and Water Conservation Committee and three members from the Planning and Zoning Committee form a committee to look into further regulating erosion control and storm water. Motion passed by roll call vote. All joint committee members present voted in favor of this motion.

7. **Discussion on community outreach and education related to animal operations and their regulation**

Chilsen reviewed the education that was provided. No action taken.

8. **Discussion and possible action on tentative future meeting schedule and agenda items**

No action taken.

9. **Adjourn**

Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to adjourn at 12:43 p.m. Motion passed.