

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## February 15, 2023

### 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), Cassie Richardson (via Zoom), Meg Turville-Heitz (via Zoom), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA) (via Zoom), 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 Terrall, USDA Wildlife Services.

- Others in Attendance: Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, and Anita Marttin

### 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 February Agenda:

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

### 5. Approval of the December 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Burlingham made a motion to approve the December 21, 2022 meeting minutes as written, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 6. Approval of the January 30, 2023 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the January 30, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 7. Public Comment:

Anita Martin gave public comment on an item that is not on the agenda regarding offering the public water screening for nitrates at the County Fair.

### 8. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection January & February 2023 Reports.
- Appointments to Committee working on Stormwater and Erosion Control - Matt Foelker. Foelker appointed himself, Burlingham and Richardson to serve on the storm water and erosion control committee.

### 9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2022 Claims for the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program - Dave Terrall, USDA Wildlife Services:

Terrall gave an overview of the program and discussed the claim that was submitted. Christensen made a motion to accept the claim, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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

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

### 11. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD offered two Nutrient Management Plan update classes. A Resource Conservationist has been hired. Staff attended a phosphorus workshop. LWCD is assisting in a groundwater study and meeting with UW

Stevens Point to discuss well selection and recruitment. Staff have been conducting research on a variety of topics brought up during discussions of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). Staff is attending meetings and creating a presentation. Cicero submitted 2022 matching time for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant. The annual tree sale is almost sold out. Marisa Wieder submitted 2022 financials for the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network (LMPN) grant for reimbursement. The 2023 LMPN grant has been received. Wieder has also submitted the 2023 Healthy Lakes Grant and is working on updating Lower Spring Lake's Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

**12. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):** JCSB shop talk in January was well attended. Weichmann & Cicero are working on a JCSB annual report to submit to DATCP. JCSB will use The Natures Conservancy contribution for additional cover crop cost sharing among other things. R3G is currently working on 2023 programming. They also received a contribution from The Natures Conservancy.

**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 Participation in the Fourth Grade Farm Tour:**  
Burlingham outlined the tour for the committee. Burlingham will not be able to attend this year and is looking for volunteers. Christensen and Turville-Heitz showed interest. More information will be available in the spring. The tour is usually the first week of May.

**16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** The Cummings application is progressing and looking forward to completion within the year. The Rollefson application is in the process of getting funding from the American Farmland Trust RCPP grant.

**17. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (December):**  
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

**18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**  
Possible agenda items include: Money from the sale of county farmland to the PACE program, 4<sup>th</sup> grade farm tour, water screening at the County Fair, Stormwater and Erosion Control Committee.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** March 15, 2023 @ 8:30 in the Highway Committee Room.

**19. Adjournment:**  
Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 am, Christensen 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*