

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## June 21, 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 (8:30 - 9:30), Meg Turville-Heitz (via Zoom), 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; Zach Nagel, LWCD; and Joe Strupp (8:30 - 10:00), LWCD.

- Others in Attendance: Frankie Fuller and Sue Marx (9:00 - 10:05) (via Zoom), Cole Ciochon, Anita Martin, and Matt Zangl (8:45 - 9:15).

### 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 June Agenda:

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

### 5. Approval of the May 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the May 17, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

### 7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection June 2023 Report.

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

NRCS did not attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable. Rachel Olds is the acting District Conservationist for Jefferson County, and the Resource Conservationist will start at the end of July.

### 9. Introduction of Zach Nagel, Water Resources Management Specialist:

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

### 10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Farmland Preservation spot checks are complete. Cicero attended a Lake Ripley Critical Habitat Area Designation hearing. Cicero is working with the Drainage Board regarding a Memorandum of Understanding that would detail some of the work LWCD could do for the board if requested. Cicero attended a Village of Palmyra meeting regarding a draw down for Eurasian watermilfoil management on Lower Spring Lake. LWCD staff have been meeting to determine the details of the City of Watertown water quality trading practices offered. Strupp, Hoffman, and Sam Peterson are contacting landowners that signed up for cost-sharing of multi species cover crops after small grains to sign contracts.

### 11. Discussion on Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Work Group Meetings:

The work group's first meeting was 5/24/2023. The group is considering a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) model to determine how to craft a Jefferson County ordinance. The next meeting is 6/27/2023 at 8:30 am.

### 12. Discussion and Possible Action on High Capacity Well Location and Information Mapping:

High capacity well locations cannot be shared with the public per the DNR.

### 13. Discussion on Informational Materials for Future Meeting on Spray Irrigation of Manure and Industrial Waste:

Cicero inquired what materials and/or speakers the committee would like to have at a future

meeting on spray irrigation of manure and industrial waste. Materials requested include the report from the Wisconsin Manure Irrigation workgroup, ordinances from other towns or counties, and slides from the joint meeting. Speakers requested include Elizabeth Chilsen from the Health Department, possibly a farmer that uses spray irrigation, and someone involved in the Wisconsin Manure Irrigation workgroup.

**14. Discussion on 2022-2023 Tree Sale Report:**

Liakopoulos discussed the 2020-2023 Tree Sale Report.

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

Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) and Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G) are having a Rain and Runoff Presentation at 4:00 at Korth Park 06/22/2023. R3G are hosting a Pasture Walk tonight (06/21/2023).

**16. Discussion on 2022 Conservation Progress Report:**

Cicero presented the 2022 Conservation Progress Report.

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

There were no notices.

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

There were no cancellations.

**19. Discussion and Possible Action on Request to Place a Cell Tower on an Agricultural Conservation Easement:**

The request has been withdrawn by the landowner.

**20. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution Authorizing Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation**

**Easement:** Turville-Heitz requested the fiscal note be made clearer to show the budget amendment is obtained from designated LWCD funds. Christensen made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing purchase of an agricultural conservation easement, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

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

Hoffman spoke to the committee about recent interest in the PACE program. When funding is available, Hoffman will send out applications to the interested parties. The Rollefson application has been ranked and is awaiting funding.

**22. Discussion and Possible Action on Letter of Intent to Purchase Land from the County at State Road 26 Bypass and Business 26:**

Burlingham made a motion to have Jefferson County follow a process when selling county-owned land that includes obtaining an appraisal, consider impacts to taxpayers and to county Departments, and puts the farmland value of agricultural land sold into the County's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

**23. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (April):**

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

**24. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

Possible agenda items include: How the Federal Supreme Court wetland decision will impact Jefferson County, future PACE funding, Manure Complaint Report, Strategic Plan for County owned land.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** July 19, 2023 @ 8:30 am in the Highway Committee Room

**25. Adjournment:**

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 am, Jurcek 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*