

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

September 20, 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), Meg Turville-Heitz (via Zoom @ 8:35), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, Assistant County Administrator (via Zoom). Cassie Richardson and Kirsten Jurcek (FSA) were absent.

- Others in Attendance: Keith Kulow, Anita Martin, Kim Naber (via Zoom), Karen Gefvert, Dairy Business Association, and Erin Tomasik, WI Farm Bureau.

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 September Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the August 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the August 16, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

6. Public Comment:

Martin gave public comment on agenda item #14.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection September 2023 Report.
- WI Land+Water is conducting a Strategic Plan Survey and requested the LWCC take the survey.

8. Discussion on 2023 Wisconsin Act 32 on Land and Water Conservation Committee Appointments:

The Committee discussed Act 32 and how it will affect the LWCC.

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero attended a Koshkonong Creek meeting with Dane County and NRCS. NRCS is developing a preliminary investigation and feasibility report to identify resource concerns and possible solutions. Hoffman is working with Rock River Collation (RRC) and the City of Watertown on the Watertown Waterways Improvement Program (WWIP). A farmer/landowner informational meeting was held 8/30/23. Hoffman is meeting with interested parties and conducting site visits. The Watertown Rotary Club donated \$600 to RRC for native seed to be used with the WWIP. A draft erosion control/stormwater ordinance and post-construction stormwater ordinance is with the Zoning Department. LWCD is hiring a new Water Resources Management Specialist.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant:

Cicero summarized the grant. Christensen made a motion to authorize the application and implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant and forward it on to the County Board for approval, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant:** Cicero summarized the grant. Christensen made a motion to authorize the application and implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant and forward it on to the County Board for approval, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 5/0.
- 13. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant:** Cicero summarized the grant. Burlingham made a motion to authorize the application and implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant and forward it on to the County Board for approval, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 5/0.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on Spray Irrigation of Manure and Industrial Waste:** Strupp spoke about the Town of Ixonia Safe Transport of Manure Ordinance. The committee discussed the presentation Ken Genskow, from University of Wisconsin-Madison, gave at the August LWCC meeting. The committee requested LWCD staff start working on an ordinance and obtain input from farmers and the public.
- 15. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders & Rock River Regenerative Graziers:** JCSB and R3G are helping with a field day hosted by Practical Farmers of Iowa 09/21/23. JCSB will host a post-harvest field day in November. JCSB and R3G will host a winter workshop in December. JCSB and R3G have applied for their 2024 grants. JCSB plans to add field buffers to their 2024 cost share program.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):** There were no notices.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:** There were no cancellations.
- 18. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** Hoffman updated the committee on the Cummings easement. Anticipated closing in November. The Rollefson Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) easement application has been submitted to NRCS for their approval. NRCS will review new applications October-November. We anticipate knowing if the easement has approval by November. After the Rollefson easement, all of the County PACE funding has been used. Hoffman has received multiple calls from landowners showing interest in the PACE program, and a waiting list has been created.
- 19. Discussion and Possible Action on PACE Funding:** There is no new information at this time. Burlingham mentioned asking American Farmland Trust to give a presentation to the County Board outlining the importance of farmland in Jefferson County and the PACE program.
- 20. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (July):** The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.
- 21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:** Possible agenda items include: County Farm Lease Extension, Annual Tree Sale.
- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** October 18, 2023 @ 8:30 Location To Be Determined
- 22. Adjournment:** Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 am, Herbst 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