

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

November 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) (via Zoom), Cassie Richardson (via Zoom), Meg Turville-Heitz, Kirsten Jurcek (FSA), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE) (via Zoom), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; Colton Hutchinson, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, Assistant County Administrator.

- Others in Attendance: Matt Zangl, Director, Planning and Zoning Department, 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 November Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the October 18, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

Martin gave public comment on agenda item #11.

7. Communications:

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

8. Introduction of Colton Hutchinson, Water Resources Management Specialist:

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

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS did not attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable. Jurcek informed the committee that NRCS has hired Zach Thayer a full time Resource Conservationist for Jefferson County.

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero has had meetings with Dane County and NRCS on the Koshkonong Creek project. Cicero and Hutchinson are finalizing Department of Natural Resources applications for the Cleans Boats, Clean Waters Grant; Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant; and Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant. Dave Hoffman is conducting nonmetallic mine annual inspections. Cover crop cost sharing is ongoing.

11. Discussion on Spray Irrigation of Manure:

LWCD will reach out to farmers for their input on spray irrigation of manure after harvest. The committee discussed rephrasing "industrial waste" to "agricultural waste" so that egg wash water is included, but other non-agricultural industrial wastes are not.

12. Discussion on Erosion Control and Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinances:

Zangl briefly outlined the ordinances and possible funding sources. Zangl informed the Committee that the ordinances have been indefinitely postponed pending further research by staff.

13. Discussion on Groundwater Study Public Meeting:

Cicero summarized the groundwater meeting. The meeting was recorded, and a link is available on the LWCD website. 46 people attended. 828 samples have been analyzed so far. A website dashboard and final report are being developed. Jefferson County is purchasing nitrate meters to be used as a nitrate screening tool.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Multi-Discharger Variance Funding Application:

Cicero discussed the Multi-Discharger Variance Funding application. Christensen made a motion to apply for the Multi-Discharger Variance Funding, Turville-Heights seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

15. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB applied for a producer-led grant and received \$29,600. R3G also applied for a producer-led grant and received \$26,400. R3G received a grant from The Nature Conservancy for \$10,000.

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

Mitchell Haberman, Delyle Krause, Daniel Lemke Jr, Jordan Matthews

Christensen made a motion to accept the notices, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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: The Cummings easement closing is expected in December. The Rollefson Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) easement application has been submitted to NRCS.

~Richardson exited the meeting @ 9:30~

19. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (September):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: LWCD Manure Complaint Tracking, Spray Irrigation of Manure and Agricultural Waste, Erosion Control/Stormwater Management Ordinances Update

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** December 20, 2023 @ 8:30 in Room C1021

21. Adjournment:

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 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