

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## December 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), Cassie Richardson, Meg Turville-Heitz, and Margaret Burlingham (PACE), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator; and Zach Thayer, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Kirsten Jurcek (FSA) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Matt Zangl, Planning and Zoning Department, and Anita Martin  
Via Zoom: Karen Gefvert, Sue Marx, Kim Naber, and Erin Tomasik.

### 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 December Agenda:

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

### 5. Approval of the November 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the November 15, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

### 7. Communications:

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

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

Thayer introduced himself to the committee and outlined his position with NRCS.

### 9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cost share cover crop emergence checks are being performed, one well closure has been completed, and reimbursements have been submitted. Sam Peterson attended the 2023 WI Water and Soil Health conference. There are 3 active grants with Healthy Lakes and Rivers. Landowners with installed practices have been reimbursed, extensions have been received, and a final report for one grant is complete. Rock Lake has received an anonymous donation, \$5,000 per year for 5 years, for agricultural conservation practices within the Rock Lake Watershed. LWCD and Watertown Waterway Improvement Program are working with the DNR to have the first water quality trade in Spring 2024. Three ground water nitrate screening tools have been purchased.

### 10. Discussion on Legislative Updates to the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Strupp discussed the legislative updates to the Farmland Preservation Program and answered committee questions.

### 11. Discussion on Spray Irrigation of Manure and Agricultural Waste:

Strupp, Cicero, Dave Hoffman, and Sam Peterson met with producers regarding the work group report on spray irrigation of manure. Many items discussed in the report are already covered by nutrient management plans and concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) regulations. LWCD will develop a handout on the producer input received at the meeting.

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

Dave Hoffman (LWCD), Sarah Elsner, Brett Scherer, and Matt Zangl (Planning & Zoning) attended erosion control training with North America Stormwater and Erosion Control Association of Wisconsin (NASECA).

**13. Discussion on Manure Complaint Report:**

Strupp outlined the manure complaint report and answered committee questions.

**14. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):** JCSB is working to close out the 2022 producer-led grant, obtain partial reimbursement for the 2023 grant, and secure an extension for the remaining 2023 money. JCSB and R3G had a well-attended winter workshop 12/19/2023 with 3 other producer-led groups.

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

There were no notices.

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

Weenonah Brattset Trust

Richardson made a motion to accept the notice, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

**17. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** The Cummings easement purchase closed 12/6/2023. Cicero, Burlingham, Dave Hoffman, and Steve Nass met to discuss the PACE program and funding sources.

**18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (October):**

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

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

Possible agenda items include: Hunting on the County Farm, Erosion Control and Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinances

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** January 17, 2024 @ 8:30 in Room C1021

**20. Adjournment:**

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 am, Richardson 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*