

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

January 17, 2024

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 (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; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; Sam Peterson, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Danielle Thompson, Jefferson County Corporation Counsel.

- Others in Attendance: Sarah Elsner, Planning and Zoning Department, Chad Johnson, Katie Kutz, Anita Martin, and Andy Williams
Via Zoom: Elizabeth Chilsen, Jefferson County Health Department, Brian Udovich, Jefferson County Highway Department, Kim Naber, and Lianna Spencer.

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 January Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the December 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

Janet Foust gave public comment on agenda item #10 via email. Anita Martin asked to give public comment during the discussion on agenda item #10.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection January 2024 Report.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Staff is working on an implementation plan for the strategic plan that was approved by County Board last year. Cicero is working with two implementation teams: Transformative Government, and Highly Regarded Quality of Life. Strupp and Peterson held a nutrient management update class for farmers that write their own nutrient management plans. Another class will be held 2/6/2024. Farmland Preservation Program Annual Certifications are being collected. LWCD staff met regarding 2023 cost sharing to discuss improvements that can be made with the process and planning for 2024. Hoffman continues his work on the Watertown water quality trading program. 2023 annual nonmetallic mining fees are being submitted to the office.

10. Discussion on Spray Irrigation of Manure and Agricultural Waste:

Cicero and Strupp discussed the farmer meeting with the committee. Information on existing state rules regarding waste spreading will be shared at the February meeting. Turville-Heitz asked for clarification on raw food fields and their proximity to spray irrigation.

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

Cicero and Elsner provided an update on an erosion control and post-construction stormwater management ordinance. Zoning sent a survey to the towns to obtain their input. The survey results and other updates will be shared with the committee when they are available.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Prohibiting Hunting on the County Farm:

Christensen made a motion to have LWCD and Corporation Counsel draft an ordinance restricting public access to the County Farm, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB has a meeting scheduled 1/25/2024 to discuss and plan 2024 activities. R3G has a meeting scheduled 1/19/2024 to discuss and plan 2024 activities.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):
There were no notices.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:
There were no cancellations.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: Hoffman is working on the Rollefson Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) easement application. LWCD has been instructed to update the deed language to meet requirements set forth by NRCS. Burlingham, Cicero, Hoffman, and Steve Nass plan to attend the Finance committee meeting to discuss future PACE funding.

17. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (November):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Discussion on the Future of the PACE Program

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** February 21, 2024 @ 8:30 in Room C1021

19. Adjournment:

Burlingham made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 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