

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

February 21, 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, Meg Turville-Heitz (via Zoom), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE) (via Phone), 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; Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator; and Danielle Thompson, County Corporation Counsel. Kirsten Jurcek (FSA) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Matt Zangl, Planning and Zoning Department, Susan Bence, Chad Johnson, Katie Kutz, Anita Martin, and Andy Williams.
- Via Zoom: Dettman Dairy Farm, Sue Marx, and Kim Naber

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 February Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the January 17, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection February 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 reporting on DNR & DATCP grants. Several grants have been received: 2024-26 DNR Healthy Lakes Grant, 2024 DNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant, and 2024 DNR Lake Monitoring & Protection Network grant. The Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program will receive \$21, 034.60 for the Upper Rock and \$31, 906.33 for Lower Rock. Peterson attended the Producer-Led grant annual workshop. Colton Hutchinson attended a Wellness Day with the Jefferson County Health Department at the Fort Atkinson Club 2/3/24. The nitrate screening tool was used for 30 samples. Based on the information collected, 9 additional lab tests were recommended to landowners. Peterson and Strupp held a nutrient management update class. 2024 farmland preservation program annual certifications are being collected.

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

The Committee discussed spray irrigation. Committee members felt this item was redundant since the state already has strict, well-defined regulations in place. Christensen made a motion to postpone this agenda item to a date uncertain, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance Prohibiting Hunting on County-Owned Farmland:

Richardson made a motion to forward the draft ordinance to County Board including changes discussed at the LWCC meeting with Corporation Counsel, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Guidelines for University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Use of Ground Penetrating Radar on the Potter's Field:

Richardson made a motion to approve the agreement on the scope of work for the use of ground penetrating radar on the Potter's Field, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Participation in the Fourth Grade Farm Tour:

Cicero outlined the Fourth Grade Farm Tour. Katie Kutz answered committee questions. Christensen, Richardson, and possibly Turville-Heitz will attend. Christensen hopes to recruit additional volunteers for the "Apple as the Earth" demonstration.

14. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):

Peterson attended the State Producer-Led conference along with members of JCSB and R3G. JCSB had a board meeting last week.

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:

Ronald Pelky

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

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

Reimbursement from NRCS for the Cummings easement is expected this week. Hoffman is working with Corporation Counsel to update deed language for the Rollefson easement to meet new requirements set forth by NRCS.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Future Funding for the PACE Program:

Richardson made a motion to have LWCD draft a resolution to include PACE funding of \$500,000 from previous land sales, a \$50,000 annual amount from solar farm income or future farmland sales, and forward it on to the Finance Committee, Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: PACE Resolution, Potter's Field Update, Stormwater & Erosion Control Survey Results

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** March 20, 2024 @ 8:30 in Room C1021

21. Adjournment:

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 am, Turville-Heitz 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