

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

March 20, 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), Cassie Richardson, Meg Turville-Heitz, and Margaret Burlingham (PACE) (via Zoom), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator; and Danielle Thompson, County Corporation Counsel. Kirsten Jurcek (FSA) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, Matt Zangl, Jefferson County Planning & Zoning
- Via Zoom: Joan Callan, Sue Marx

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 March Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the February 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Turville-Heitz made a motion to approve the February 21, 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 March 2024 Report.
- Cicero thanked Dan Herbst for his service on the Land & Water Conservation Committee.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero, Hoffman, and Sam Peterson attended the annual Land+Water Conference. Cicero is working on Priority Based Budgeting. Cicero contacted the Wisconsin State Historical Society for a “request to disturb” regarding Project Dove’s grading/road work on the County Farm. This work is adjacent to the Potter’s Field. The tree sale is tentatively scheduled for distribution in April.

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

Zangl discussed the erosion control and post-construction stormwater management ordinance town survey results. Next steps are determined by the Zoning Committee. This item will be on a future agenda as more information is available.

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

Turville-Heitz made a motion to accept the ordinance prohibiting trespass on county-owned farmland as revised and forward it to the County Board, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

12. Discussion on Ground Penetrating Radar Work at the Potter's Field:

Cicero discussed the radar work being done at Potter's field. There is some indication of additional graves. Cicero will update the committee if any are confirmed.

13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB had a meeting to discuss future cost sharing projects. R3G's were not able to attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

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 on Participation in the Fourth Grade Farm Tour:

Christensen, Hoffman, Richardson, Turville-Heitz, and Weichmann plan to attend. Cicero will help coordinate times.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Funding for Agricultural Conservation Easements:

The committee requested more information on possible funding mechanisms for agricultural conservation easements and to have this item be on a future agenda.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: Hoffman informed the committee that the deed language for the Rollefson easement has been edited and the easement has been sent to NRCS for review.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

~Burlingham exited the meeting @ 10:05.

20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: PACE Funding

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** ~April Election - Meeting Date To Be Determined~

21. Adjournment:

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