

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

May 15, 2024

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Patricia Cicero at 8:30 am. Committee Members Margaret Burlingham (PACE) (via Zoom @ 8:40), Walt Christensen, Matt Foelker (UW), Elizabeth Hafften (UW), Cassie Richardson, and Meg Turville-Heitz 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. Scott Schultz (Ag) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB)

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. Introductions:

Cicero introduced herself to the Committee, then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

5. Election of Officers:

Chairperson: Christensen made a motion to nominate Turville-Heitz Chairperson. Turville-Heitz accepted.

Chairperson: Richardson made a motion to nominate Foelker Chairperson. Foelker accepted.

No other nominations for Chairperson were made. Turville-Heitz was elected Chairperson by written vote.

Vice-Chairperson: Christensen made a motion to nominate Foelker Vice-Chairperson. Foelker accepted.

No other nominations for Vice Chairperson were made. Turville-Heitz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Set Future Meeting Schedule:

The Land & Water Conservation Committee meetings will remain on the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am in room C1021 unless otherwise noticed.

7. Review of the May Agenda:

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

8. Approval of the March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

9. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

10. Communications:

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

11. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

12. Discussion on Land & Water Conservation Committee and Department Overview:

Cicero discussed the LWCD and Committee Authorities, Duties, and Personnel; the 2023 LWCD Annual Report; and the Committee Member Resources, then answered questions.

13. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

NRCS, LWCD, and Dane County decided not to go forward with a project on Koshkonong Creek due to mixed feedback from landowners. The Watertown Waterways Improvement Project met with Rock River Coalition and LWCD to discuss marketing needs in 2024. LWCD and Gerry Kokkonen, Land Information, are conducting drone flights for a Marsh Lake wetland project. Colton Hutchinson, LWCD, attended the 2024 Lakes Convention, the 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Partnership meeting, conducted AIS training for Rock Lake volunteers, trained volunteer stream and lake monitors, and installed water level gages at inlets to Rock Lake.

14. Discussion on Ground Penetrating Radar Work at the Potter’s Field:

Cicero discussed the ongoing radar work at the Potter’s Field. Initial information shows the southern area may not have burials, and the that main site may be larger than originally thought. A report is forthcoming from the researcher.

15. Discussion on Fourth Grade Farm Tour:

Kutz Dairy hosted the Fourth Grade Farm Tour at Jefferson County Fair Park. The event was well attended, and well run. LWCC members Christensen, Richardson, and Turville-Heitz attended along with Weichmann (JCSB). The attendees put on the Apple As The Earth demonstration and other conservation presentations along with the help of a few Future Farmers of America (FFA) students.

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

Weichmann indicated that he is working with R3G to plan the next Winter Workshop.

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

There were no notices.

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

There were no cancellations.

19. 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 approved by NRCS, and the farmstead envelop has been mapped out by the surveyor.

Richardson made a motion to order an appraisal of the Rollefson property, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

20. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (March):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Invasive Species Programs, LWCD Fee Schedule

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** June 19, 2024 @ 8:30 in Room C1021

22. Adjournment:

Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.