

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

June 19, 2024

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Meg Turville-Heitz at 8:30am. Committee Members Meg Turville-Heitz (Chair), Matt Foelker (UW) (Vice-Chair), Margaret Burlingham (PACE) (via Zoom), Walt Christensen, Cassie Richardson (via Zoom at 8:35am), and Scott Schultz (Ag), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Colton Hutchinson, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator. Elizabeth Hafften (UW) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: Sue Marx (via Zoom), Anita Martin (at 8:40am), Jennifer Johnson (at 8:40am)

2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established. Turville-Heitz asked the committee members to introduce themselves since a new committee member was in attendance.

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 June Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the May 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the May 15, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection May & June 2024 Reports.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS did not attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable. Farm Service Agency (FSA) has hired Judy Lund as the Jefferson County FSA Executive.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero attended an informational meeting with Daybreaks Foods regarding work they are doing to reduce odors from industrial waste ponds. Cicero attended the Southern Area Association quarterly meeting. Cicero and Liakopoulos met with MIS on the creation of a new database for the tree sale. Dave Hoffman is conducting Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) monitoring. Strupp and Sam Peterson have completed the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) spot checks for the northwest quadrant of the County. Hutchinson has conducted flow monitoring on streams into Rock Lake. Hutchinson has placed new stream monitors near Fort Atkinson. Cicero attend the Kikkoman groundbreaking and Aztalan Bio open house. Hutchinson and Dave Hoffman have been working on Healthy Lakes & Rivers projects. Cicero and Hutchinson will attend the Health Department's open house to provide nitrate screening of well water.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on LWCC Representative to the Southern Area Association (SAA) of Wisconsin Land+Water:

Christenson made a motion to have a rotating LWCC representative to the SAA as members are available, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0. Christenson volunteered to attend the October 2024 meeting.

11. Discussion on Invasive Species Programs:

Hutchinson gave an overview of the grant funded invasive species programs he works on in the County and answered committee questions.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Department Fee Schedule:

LWCD is working to update the fee schedule. Cicero has been in contact with other counties regarding their fee structure and more information will be available at the next meeting.

13. Discussion on 2023-2024 Tree Sale Report:

Cicero discussed the report with committee members and answered questions.

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

LWCD is signing producers up for JCSB cover crop cost-sharing. R3G attended the NRCS local work group meeting to gather information regarding cost share goals and ranking priorities for federal conservation funding. R3G hosted 2 pasture walks in May and June. R3G in collaboration with Glacierland RC&D will be conducting a Nutrient Management for Graziers workshop July 9th and 11th.

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

Voluntary - Gerald & Sharon Kraus

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

~Richardson exited the meeting at 9:35am~

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

There were no cancellations.

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

Dave Hoffman ordered the appraisal of the Rollefson property, and it is scheduled to done mid to late June. Cicero and Hoffman are working to update the easement ranking system.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Support for Funding the Wisconsin Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (PACE):

Foelker made a motion to support efforts to fund Wisconsin's PACE Program, adding Jefferson County's logo to the letter of support from American Farmland Trust, and send it to the Executive Committee, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Department Fee Schedule, Manure Complaint Report

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** July 17, 2024 at 8:30am in Room C1021

21. Adjournment:

Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 10:05am, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 5/0.