

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## July 17, 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), Walt Christensen, Cassie Richardson (via Zoom at 8:32am), and Scott Schultz (Ag), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator. Elizabeth Hafften (UW) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: Dean Weichmann - Jefferson County Soil Builders, Anita Martin, 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 July Agenda:

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

### 5. Approval of the June 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the June 19, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

Sue Marx gave public comment on the LWCD website and programs implemented by the LWCD. Anita Martin gave public comment on agenda item #11.

### 7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection July 2024 Report. The report is not available at this time.
- 2024 Southern Area Tour - Rock County

### 8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

### 9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Colton Hutchinson conducted aquatic plant surveys on Lower Spring Lake and the "millpond" of Rock Lake. Cicero, Hutchinson, and the Health Department provided nitrate screening at a booth at the County Fair. Hoffman conducted Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) monitoring, and Purchase of Agricultural Easement (PACE) monitoring. Hoffman is finalizing information for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the first water quality trade with the City of Watertown. Strupp and Sam Peterson attended nutrient management plan training for graziers and provided enrollment information for the farmland preservation program. Cicero attended a meeting regarding flooding issues along the Rock River in Southeast Dodge County and Northeast Jefferson County. Cicero will have the 2025 budget to Administration the beginning of August.

### 10. Discussion on Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) Training on June 28, 2024:

Cicero discussed the LWCC training. Burlingham, Cicero, Christensen, Turville-Heitz, and Schultz attended.

### 11. Discussion on Manure Complaint Report:

Cicero and Strupp discussed the report and answered committee questions.

- 12. Discussion on Wisconsin Counties Association's Agriculture, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee Meeting:** Turville-Heitz attended the meeting and gave the committee members an overview of the Wisconsin Counties Association's Agriculture, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee duties and responsibilities.
- 13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):** JCSB is planning a field day. Date is to be determined. LWCD is currently accepting cover crop cost share contract applications. R3G hosted a pasture walk. JCSB and R3G are planning to host a rainfall simulator demonstration at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Brew with a View.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**  
Donald Kiedrowski
- Foelker made a motion to accept the notice, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.
- 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:** The Rollefson appraisal has been received. Hoffman will be discussing the appraisal and next steps with Rollefson, American Farmland Trust, and NRCS. December 2024 is the tentative closing date. Hoffman is working on baseline documentation.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Support for Funding the Wisconsin PACE Program:**  
In June, LWCC made a motion to support efforts to fund Wisconsin's PACE Program and add Jefferson County's logo to American Farmland Trust's supporting document. The document was sent to the Executive Committee where it was tabled awaiting the source of funding to ensure it did not conflict with the staffing grant the LWCD receives. Now that the source of funding has been established and will not affect the staffing grant, the document will be sent back to the Finance Committee for their approval.
- 18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (May):**  
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed. Cicero discussed possible fee changes for the 2025 budget.
- 19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**  
Possible agenda items include: 2025 Budget Overview, 2025 Proposed Fee Sheet, LWCD Website
- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** August 21, 2024 at 8:30am in Room C1021
  - **Revised Meeting Time Due to Budget Schedule:** September 18, 2024 - Time to be Determined
- 20. Adjournment:**  
Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:45am, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.