

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

August 21, 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, and Scott Schultz (Ag), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; Colton Hutchinson, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator. Elizabeth Hafften (UW), and Cassie Richardson were excused.

- Others in Attendance: Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, Anita Martin, and Sue Marx (via Zoom)

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 August Agenda:

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

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

Foelker made a motion to approve the July 17, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection July & August 2024 Reports
- 2024 Southern Area Association Tour in 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:

Hutchinson has identified new populations of purple loosestrife near Fort Atkinson. Landowners will be notified and provided resources. Hutchinson is working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on zebra mussel research on Rock Lake and Lake Ripley. Zebra mussel samplers have been installed on volunteer piers. Hutchison is assisting Rock River Coalition with planning a one-day stream monitor workshop 11/09/2024. Cicero attended both the Executive Committee and County Board meetings regarding a resolution to support American Farmland Trust's (AFT) efforts to fund the Wisconsin Purchase of Agriculture Easement (PACE) program. The resolution was passed by the County Board. Sam Peterson completed required security measures with NRCS to obtain approval for a federal computer. Hoffman performed site visits for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Hoffman worked with the city of Watertown to submit DNR paperwork on the first water quality trade. Cover crop sign-ups are going well. LWCD is awaiting a final report for the groundwater study and an online dashboard.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on 2025 Department Fees:

Cicero gave an overview of the proposed updated department fees and answered committee questions. Foelker made a motion to approve the 2025 department fees, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

11. Discussion on 2025 Department Budget:

Cicero discussed the 2025 budget and answered committee questions.

12. Discussion on Department Website:

Cicero spoke to the committee about the work being done to update the department website.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant: Cicero discussed the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant with the committee. Christensen made a motion to approve authorizing the application and implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant:

Cicero discussed the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant with the committee. Foelker made a motion to approve authorizing the application and implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Extending Memorandum of Understanding between Land and Water Conservation Department and Jefferson County Soil Builders:

Cicero gave an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Land and Water Conservation Department and Jefferson County Soil Builders. Foelker made a motion to approve extending the Memorandum of Understanding, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

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

Schultz & Weichmann spoke about the upcoming rainfall simulator demonstration in August, and the upcoming pasture walk in September. The producer-led group grant applications are due 9/13/2024.

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 is working with NRCS and Jefferson County Corporation Counsel on the Rollefson easement.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: County Farm Lease, Jefferson County Soil Builders Outreach

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** September 18, 2024 @ 1:30pm in Room C2003 (2nd Floor - Next to the County Board Room)

22. Adjournment:

Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 9:40am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 5/0.