

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

October 16, 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 (via Zoom), Cassie Richardson (via Zoom), and Scott Schultz (Ag), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD. Elizabeth Hafften (UW) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Dan Hirschert, Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program, Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, Anita Martin, and 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 October Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the September 18, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

Anita Martin gave public comment on an item that wasn't on the agenda.

7. Communications:

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

8. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2024 Wildlife Damage Abatement Claims Program Crop Prices and 90% Harvest Date:

Foelker made a motion to accept the 2024 Wildlife Damage Abatement crop prices, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

Foelker made a motion that in order to qualify for the program, 90% of the crops will need to be harvested no later than December 1, 2024, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2025 Wildlife Damage Abatement Claims Program Budget:

Foelker made a motion to approve the 2025 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Participation in the Deer Donation Program:

Hirschert discussed the Deer Donation Program and answered committee questions. Foelker made a motion to continue participation in the Deer Donation Program, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

11. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

12. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Dave Hoffman has been conducting annual non-metallic mine site visits. Hoffman is also working on the Watertown Water Quality Trading program. Preliminary approval from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been received for the first trade. Next step is a public comment period. Cicero and Colton Hutchinson visited Kanow Park with Jefferson County Parks Staff. Cicero and Hutchinson arranged for Department of Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) engineers to provide shoreline erosion control input. Cover crop cost sharing contracts are being signed and reimbursements are being sent. Cicero completed her work on the website and asked the LWCC and LWCD to offer suggestions.

13. Discussion on Southern Area Tour:

Cicero discussed the upcoming Southern Area Tour that Jefferson County is hosting in 2025. Cicero asked for input from the attendees of the recent Rock County tour and asked for additional suggestions from the committee and LWCD staff.

14. Discussion of Possible Action on Multi-Discharger Variance Funding Application:

Cicero discussed the Multi-Discharger Variance funding application. Foelker made a motion to apply for the Multi-Discharger Variance funding, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

15. Discussion on Jefferson County Groundwater Study:

Cicero informed the committee that the groundwater study final report and website dashboard have been developed. Drafts were sent to LWCD for edits and suggestions. Cicero will present the report and dashboard to the committee when they have been finalized.

16. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): The field day at Scott Schultz’s farm went well. JCSB and R3G are planning a Winter Workshop December 10, 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: No new updates.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Groundwater Study Report.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** November 20, 2024 at 8:30am in Room C1021

22. Adjournment:

Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 9:25am, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.