

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

November 20, 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, Elizabeth Hafften (UW) (via Zoom), Cassie Richardson (via Zoom), and Scott Schultz (Ag), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, Interim County Administrator.

- 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 November Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the October 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Schultz made a motion to approve the October 16, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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 November 2024 Report.
- WI Land+Water 2025-2027 State Budget Priorities.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD facilitated a conservation partner meeting with Farm Service Agency, Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development, NRCS, and UW-Extension. Cicero and Turville-Heitz attended the state-wide county conservation meeting. Christensen, Cicero, and Turville-Heitz attended the Southern Area Association meeting. Cicero attended a Strategic Plan - Highly Regarded Quality of Life team meeting to work on implementation. Watertown Waterways Improvement Program's first water quality trade was approved by the Department of Natural Resources. LWCD staff met with Watertown to discuss next steps and have planned for 1-2 trades in 2025.

10. Discussion on Department Website:

Cicero discussed restructuring and updating the department website with the help of Tammie Jaeger in Administration. Cicero outlined the changes and asked for committee input.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on 2024 State Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Fall Election:

The committee reviewed the 2025-2026 State Land and Water Conservation Board candidates. Richardson made a motion to vote for Yogesh Chwala, Schultz seconded. Turville-Heitz made a motion to vote for Monte Osterman, Foelker seconded. Christensen made a motion to vote for Rebecca Clarke, Richardson seconded. Motions passed 7/0. Winning candidates will be announced in December and will begin their two-year term of LWCB service in January 2025.

12. Discussion on Groundwater Study Report:

The committee discussed the groundwater study report and next steps. Cicero invited Kevin Masarik, UW Stevens Point to attend the December LWCC meeting to talk about the results.

13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB and R3G each applied for, and received, 2025 grants for \$23,000. JCSB and R3G, along with 3 other producer-led groups, are hosting a winter workshop December 10th at UW-Whitewater Community Engagement Center.

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

Shirley Ebert Trust, Nicholas Kau

Foelker made a motion to accept the notices, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

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

Mitchell Haberman

Schultz made a motion to accept the notice, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: No new updates.

17. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (September):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Groundwater Study Results, Manure Complaint Report.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** December 18, 2024 at 8:30am in Room C1021

19. Adjournment:

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