

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

December 18, 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, Elizabeth Hafften (UW) (via Zoom), and Cassie Richardson (via Zoom), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Dave Hoffman, LWCD; and Colton Hutchinson, LWCD; and Zach Thayer, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Scott Schultz (Ag) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: Kendell Cooper and Elizabeth McGreary, Jefferson County Health Department; Peter Jacobs, Anita Martin, and John Nichols. Via Zoom: Sam LaMuro, Jefferson County Board of Health; Tracy Hameau, Jefferson County Emergency Management; Sarah Elsner, Jefferson County Planning and Development; Kevin Masarik, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; Sue Marx, Beth Naughton and Lianna Spencer.

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 December Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

6. Public Comment:

Peter Jacobs gave public comment on agenda items #8 and #10.

Anita Martin gave public comment on agenda item #10.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection December 2024 Report.
- Burlingham notified the committee that Tall Pines Conservancy purchased a conservation easement through the American Farmland Trust (AFT) grant: Cozy Nook Farm, owned by the Oberhaus Family on US Highway 18 in Wales, Waukesha County.

8. Discussion on Well Water Report and Online Dashboard - Kevin Masarik, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:

Masarik gave an overview of the well water report and online dashboard. A discussion followed with Masarik answering committee questions. Cicero discussed the next steps which include a public meeting in the spring along with ongoing nitrate screening opportunities.

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Thayer discussed the NRCS report and upcoming program sign-up deadlines.

10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD had a meeting with the City of Watertown and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on next steps with the water quality trading program. Various grant final reports and reimbursement requests have been submitted. Cicero attended a strategic planning committee meeting. Regarding the Enbridge oil spill - the county found out about the increased volume of the spill at the same time as the public. The DNR is keeping the county informed as the situation unfolds. LWCD is working with the Parks Department to get supplies to build 7 boot brush stations and 3 boat cleaning stations at Jefferson County parks using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

11. Discussion on Manure Complaint Report:

Cicero discussed the report and answered committee questions.

12. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): The winter workshop was well attended and featured great presentations. LWCD is requesting reimbursements from DACTP for the 2023 and 2024 grants.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):
There were no notices.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:
Jordan Matthews

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

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: Hoffman gave an update on the Rollefson easement process.

16. Discussion on Future Funding for PACE

Cicero discussed the information included in the meeting packet from AFT regarding future funding.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include:

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** January 15, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C1021

19. Adjournment:

Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 9:50am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.