

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

December 17, 2025

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 Teams), and Scott Schultz (Ag), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Dave Hoffman, LWCD (via Teams); Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, County Administrator (via Teams). Elizabeth Hafften (UW) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: None

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 Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Burlingham made a motion to approve the November 18, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Report.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

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

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD staff participated in active threat training. Colton Hutchinson and Strupp continued to help gather well water samples for analysis around the avian influenza chicken composting site. Hutchinson assisted Lake Ripley Management District including making maps for near-shore, non-game fish sampling, and a wood habitat survey. Cicero, Strupp, Dave Hoffman, and Sam Peterson met with the City of Watertown regarding the water quality trading program. Cicero and Hutchinson met with the City of Watertown and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding Lake Victoria and Heiden Pond research and DNR involvement in potential actions. Cicero, Hutchinson, and Hoffman met with Zoning to plan a shoreland contractor workshop that will be held in Spring of 2026. Cicero and Strupp attended a DNR public hearing on permit reissuance for the Daybreak Foods Lake Mills facility. Peterson is expediting payouts of cost

share contracts. Cicero and Strupp met with the renter of the County Farm regarding the lease and upcoming changes due to land sales and road construction. The tree sale is ongoing, and all species are still available.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution to Accept the Nature Conservancy Grant on Behalf of Jefferson County Soil Builders: Cicero outlined the resolution and answered committee questions.

Foelker made a motion to approve the resolution, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

11. Discussion on Avian Influenza in Jefferson County:

No new updates.

12. Discussion on Manure Complaint Report:

Strupp discussed the report and answered committee questions.

13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): Schultz and Dean Weichmann, JCSB attended an event: Wisconsin's Agriculture and Conservation Leaders Unite to Protect Our Waters and Strengthen Our Farms. JCSB and R3G are planning a Winter Workshop on February 5, 2026.

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

There were no notices.

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

Conrad & Carolyn Holcomb Trust, Spelios Verges

Foelker made a motion to accept the notices, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

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:

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 21, 2026 at 8:30am in Room C2063

19. Adjournment:

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:10am, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.