

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## March 19, 2025

### 1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Meg Turville-Heitz at 8:31am. Committee Members Meg Turville-Heitz (Chair), Matt Foelker (UW) (Vice-Chair), Walt Christensen, Elizabeth Hafften (UW), 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; Joe Strupp, LWCD; Michael Luckey, County Administrator; and Zach Thayer, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) (via Teams). Margaret Burlingham (PACE) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: Maureen McBroom, Stormwater Project Manager, City of Watertown; Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders; Anita Martin, 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 Agenda:

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

### 5. Approval of the February 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

Sue Marx gave public comment on the PACE program.

### 7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection March Report.

### 8. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

The 2024-2025 Tree Sale is ongoing. Colton Hutchinson and Sam Peterson attended communications training in Sauk County. Peterson attended a state-wide producer-led workshop. Hutchinson is getting supplies to volunteer stream monitors. Hutchinson, along with Lake Ripley Management District and Rock Lake Improvement Association provided information and resources to landowners affected by ice-push. Cicero and Maureen McBroom attended the Sweetwater conference in Milwaukee to give a presentation on the Watertown water quality trading project. Cicero, Hoffman, Peterson, and Turville-Heitz attended the annual Land+Water Conference.

### 9. Discussion on Watertown Waterways Improvement Program - Maureen McBroom, Stormwater Project Manager, City of Watertown:

Cicero and McBroom gave a presentation of the Watertown Waterways Improvement Program and answered committee questions.

- 10. Discussion and Possible Action on the WI Land+Water Advocacy Toolkit and Advocating for State Budget Priorities:** <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/advocacy-toolkit> :  
Cicero gave an overview of the toolkit and discussed some of the State budget priorities. Any committee member who wants to take action on advocating budget priorities should contact Turville-Heitz or Cicero.
- 11. Discussion on Groundwater Study Presentation and Educational Events:**  
Cicero discussed the upcoming educational events.
- 12. Discussion on Spill from Manure Storage in the Town of Cold Spring:**  
Strupp and the Department of Natural Resources are working with the landowner. No additional manure is being added, and the farm has been depopulated. The landowner plans to empty and properly close the storage. After closure, manure from future animals will be stored in under barn storage.
- 13. Discussion on Southern Area Association Tour:**  
LWCD will contact various Jefferson County locations to see if they would like to be involved with the tour.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on Fourth Grade Farm Tour, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Kutz Dairy:**  
The committee discussed the fourth grade farm tour. Christensen, Turville-Heitz, Schultz, and Weichmann have volunteered to attend and present the Apple as the Earth demonstration to the students. More information will be available in the coming weeks.
- 15. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):** JCSB and R3G will receive a \$10,000 grant from The Nature Conservancy in 2025. JCSB has arranged a shop talk at Novak's farm on March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss upcoming events. R3G is hosting a do it yourself fencing demonstration on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Little Red Farms.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**  
There were no notices.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:**  
There were no cancellations.
- 18. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:** No new updates.
- 19. Review of the Monthly Financial Report:**  
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.
- 20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**  
Possible agenda items include:
- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** April 16, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C2063
- 21. Adjournment:**  
Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 9:35am, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.