

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

April 16, 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, and Cassie Richardson (via Teams) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Sam Peterson, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, County Administrator. Scott Schultz (Ag) was excused. Elizabeth Hafften (UW) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Sue Marx (via Teams)

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 March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Report.
- Burlingham attended a virtual Farmland Protection Information Session organized by American Farmland Trust to provide information on the importance of State funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.
- 2024 LWCD Annual Report.

8. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Colton Hutchinson attended the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Conference. Hutchinson has been conducting lake and stream monitoring and investigating new sites that could be conducive to monitoring.

Hutchinson has been carrying out lakeshore owner site visits regarding ice heave and shore planting. A conservation partnership meeting was held with LWCD, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, UW-Extension, and Glacierland RC&D to share program updates and discuss partnership opportunities. Cicero is in communication with various construction contractors working on utilities through the county farm to make sure planting can be done. Cicero attended the Waukesha County stormwater workshop with Maureen McBroom to present on the Watertown Waterways Improvement Program. Cicero has attended meetings on Rock River flooding in Ixonia and Dodge County. Joe Strupp, Peterson, and

Hutchinson held a meeting with Rock Lake watershed farmers regarding cost share practices. Strupp, Peterson, and Cicero are working with a farm to empty and close an out of compliance manure storage system and spread the manure according to a nutrient management plan. Tree Sale distribution is April 23rd (12:00 pm - 5:30 pm) and April 24th (7:30 am - 1:00 pm).

9. Discussion on Ground Water Study:

April 7th at Jefferson County UW-Extension, Kevin Masarik, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point gave a presentation on the groundwater study results. The event included handouts, nitrate screening, well water testing kits, and information on free arsenic sampling for those who reside in the Towns of Ixonia and Watertown. LWCD staff and Health Department staff answered questions and provided nitrate screening.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Fourth Grade Farm Tour, May 7th at Kutz Dairy:

Cicero discussed the schedule for the tour volunteers: 1st shift, 8:00 - 11:45 and 2nd shift, 11:15 - 3:00.

11. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB will have a field day June 5th at Tom Novak's farm. Last week, R3G had a fencing demonstration field day. Both the JCSB and R3G received \$10,000 innovation grants from The Nature Conservancy.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):
Voluntary - Terese Rohloff

Foelker made a motion to accept the notice, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:
There were no cancellations.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: The Rollefson easement is moving forward.

15. view of the Monthly Financial Report:

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

16. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Southern Area Tour

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** May 21, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C2063

17. Adjournment:

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:05am, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 5/0.