

Land and Water Conservation Committee Minutes

May 21, 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, Elizabeth Hafften (UW) (via Teams @ 8:33), and Scott Schultz (Ag) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD. Cassie Richardson was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Sue Marx, Anita Martin, Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders

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 April 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

Sue Marx gave public comment on the Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement program.

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:

The annual tree and shrub sale has concluded. Everything sold out. Colton Hutchinson installed aquatic invasive species (AIS) signs with the Parks Department at Rock River Park, Cappies Landing, and Rome Mill Pond. Hutchinson attended the statewide AIS Partnership meeting and conducted a plant survey on Lower Spring Lake with the Department of Natural Resources. Hutchinson and Sam Peterson participated in a career fair during youth government day at the courthouse. Cicero is working with multiple people on various county farm issues with the land due to construction. Cicero and Turville-Heitz attended the Southern Area Association meeting. Cicero, Peterson, and Joe Strupp had a farmland preservation program (FPP) compliance review with DATCP. Strupp, Peterson, and Liakopoulos are doing prep work for FPP spot check of the northeast quadrant of the county.

10. Discussion on Southern Area Association Tour:

The tour will be on September 4th from 9:00 - 3:00. There will be 4 stops: A wetland restoration site adjacent to Prince's Point, Pleasant Valley Acres, Stock Family Farm, and AztalanBio, LLC. More information will be available at upcoming meetings.

11. Discussion on Fourth Grade Farm Tour:

Burlingham, Christensen, Schultz, and Turville-Heitz attended. The tour was well run, well attended and fun.

12. Discussion on Gathering Waters' Working Lands Preservation Award:

Gathering Waters will present the Working Lands Preservation Award at the June 10th Jefferson County Board meeting.

13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): JCSB is having a spring cover crop field day June 5th. R3G attended a managed grazing presentation at the Stock farm May 15th.

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:

Gerald & Sharon Kraus

Foelker made a motion to accept the notice, 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 and Possible Action on Committee Meeting Location:

The committee has decided to have their meeting location at the back of the County Board Room C2063.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Annual Tree Sale Report, Southern Area Tour Updates

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** June 18, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C2063

20. Adjournment:

Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 9:20am, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 6/0.