

Land and Water Conservation Committee Minutes

June 18, 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 Kim Liakopoulos, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Michael Luckey, County Administrator; Danielle Thompson, County Corporation Counsel; and Zach Thayer, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Elizabeth Hafften (UW) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: 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 May 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Foelker 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:

Thayer said three staff members are back in the office from remote work. No information has been given on staff reduction at this time. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) signups are available. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) signup deadline is October 31st.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Updates were unavailable.

10. Discussion on County Conservation Funding in State Budget:

The committee discussed the conservation funding information provided by WI Land+Water.

11. Discussion on 2024-2025 Tree and Shrub Sale:

Liakopoulos went over the report, answered committee questions, and discussed the 2026 sale.

12. Discussion on Southern Area Association Tour:

The tour locations have been determined.

13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): Schultz said JCSB's field day, 6/5/2025, was very well attended. R3G will host a meeting within the next few weeks. Schultz is now a R3G forage consultant.

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:

There were no cancellations.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: The landowner is making progress. Burlingham spoke about the award Jefferson County received for the PACE program. Burlingham mentioned that Gathering Waters would be interested in coming to an LWCC meeting to discuss PACE and possible partnership opportunities.

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:** July 16, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C2063

19. Adjournment:

Schultz made a motion to adjourn at 8:45am, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.