

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

September 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), Elizabeth Hafften (UW) (via Teams @ 8:35), 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; and Dave Hoffman, LWCD. Walt Christensen was excused.

- 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 August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

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

8. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero was one of the speakers at the August Coffee and Conversations session on renewable energy facilities for LWCC members statewide. Cicero toured Daybreak Farms in Lake Mills along with 2 members of the Board of Health. Cicero met with Tracy Hameau, Emergency Management, Sean Heaslip, Highway, and Michael Luckey, Jefferson County Administrator regarding a pre-disaster flood resilience grant. Cicero attended the Finance Committee budget meeting regarding the 2026 LWCD budget which was approved by Finance. Joe Strupp and Sam Peterson continue to work on cover crop cost-share contracts. Strupp and Peterson attended the DATCP Nutrient Management Program meeting. Colton Hutchinson assisted Lake Ripley with their shorelands and shallows survey. Hutchinson conducted stream sampling projects near both Rock Lake and Lower Spring Lake. Hutchinson collected zebra mussel samplers on Rock Lake.

9. Discussion on Southern Area Association Tour:

The committee discussed the Southern Area Association Tour.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant:

Cicero outlined the grant. Foelker made a motion to authorize the application and implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant and forward it on to the County Board for approval, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Application and Implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant:

Cicero outlined the grant. Burlingham made a motion to authorize the application and implementation of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant and forward it on to the County Board for approval, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

12. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):

Cicero notified the committee that JCSB and R3G have submitted their 2026 grant applications. Schultz discussed the drone seeding demonstration held in September at the Hundt farm. Schultz also spoke about the pasture walks that R3G will be hosting in the fall. Planning for the Winter Workshop has begun. More information will be provided when it is available.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Review of Deb Hall-Kind's 2025 Nutrient Management Plan for Farmland Preservation Program Compliance:

LWCD staff reviewed the nutrient management plan and determined that it did not meet State standards. The committee discussed the information provided. No action was taken.

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:

Hoffman updated the committee on the Rollefson easement. The landowner has completed the work needed to clear the title. The final title search has been ordered. When the title has been received it will be sent to Natural Resources Conservation Service to approve the appraisal.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement:

Hoffman summarized the resolution and pointed out possible updates to the estimated amounts after it goes through the Finance Committee. Burlingham made a motion to authorize the Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement and forward it on to the Finance Committee and then the County Board for approval, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report:

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: DNR Grant Resolutions, Amending November LWCD Meeting Dates/Times

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** October 15, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C2063

20. Adjournment:

Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 9:25am, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.