

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

November 18, 2025

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Meg Turville-Heitz at 10:30am. Committee Members Meg Turville-Heitz (Chair), Margaret Burlingham (PACE) (via Teams), 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; Colton Hutchinson, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; Michael Luckey, County Administrator; and Danielle Thompson, County Corporation Counsel. Matt Foelker (UW) (Vice-Chair) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: None

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 October 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Richardson made a motion to approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes as written, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Report.
- Land and Water Conservation Committee Resources on WI Land+Water Website

8. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero attended the County Conservationist meeting that included presentations on: UW-Extension Ag Institute, tracking compliance with NR-151 Ag Performance stats and prohibitions, and solar joint development agreements and ordinances. Cicero and Hutchinson met with the City of Watertown to provide input on future actions for Lake Victoria and Heiden Pond and attended a public hearing on the Rock Lake water level order. Cicero conducted research and met with Jefferson County staff on a pre-disaster flood mitigation grant. Strupp and Hutchinson worked with the Health Department to collect well water samples from houses near the chicken compost site. Cicero and Turville-Heitz attended the Southern Area Association (SAA) meeting. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff for the region were in attendance also. There was a presentation on neonicotinoid insecticide risks. Future meeting dates - 01/29/2026, 05/21/2026, 08/12/2026 (the Dane County SAA Tour), and 10/29/2026. The 2026 SAA Budget was approved. Jefferson County LWCD, Zoning, and Parks departments are having monthly meetings with DNR permitting staff to discuss proposed projects. Strupp and Sam Peterson are working on cover crop cost share contracts. The LWCD explorer needed two new tires installed. Cicero and Hutchinson submitted 2026 DNR grant applications, had a meeting with Lake Ripley to assist with their grant applications and determine matching time from LWCD staff. Hoffman is working with the City of Watertown on the next water quality trade. Hoffman has completed annual inspections of Jefferson County non-metallic mines.

- 9. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution Authorizing Extension of County Farm Agricultural Lease:**
Cicero and Luckey spoke about the evolving landscape of the County Farm and reason for extending the lease. Schultz made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the extension of the County Farm agricultural lease, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.
- 10. Discussion of Possible Action on Multi-Discharger Variance Funding Application:**
Cicero discussed the application and answered committee questions. Hafften made a motion to approve the multi-discharger variance funding application, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.
- 11. Discussion on Avian Influenza in Jefferson County:**
Luckey informed the committee that the composting is on track and weekly meetings are being held to keep everyone informed of the progress. Cicero spoke about air quality monitoring that the Health Department is conducting with some equipment on loan from the State.
- 12. Discussion on Conservation Poster Contest:**
Hutchinson gave an overview of the poster contest and answered committee questions.
- 13. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):** Both JCSB and R3G each applied for, and received, 2026 grants. They are planning for their Winter Workshop on February 9, 2026.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**
Sally Albrecht Trust, Lloyd Anderson, Margie Eickelberg Partnership, Conrad & Carolyn Holcomb Trust, Mary Jahnke, Mark Lurvey, Spelios Verges, Gladys Vogel

Christensen made a motion to accept the notices, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 6/0.
- 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 is getting signatures on the Rollefson baseline documents and awaiting Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) approval of the Rollefson appraisal.
- 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: Manure Complaint Report, Avian Influenza
• **Next Scheduled Meeting:** December 17, 2025 at 8:30am in Room C2063
- 19. Adjournment:**
Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 11:15am, Hafften seconded. Motion passed 6/0.