

Land and Water Conservation Committee Minutes

June 17, 2026

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 at 8:32), and Scott Schultz (Ag) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Danielle Thompson, County Corporation Counsel; and Zach Thayer, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Gary Skalitzky was absent.

- Others in Attendance: via Teams; Michael Luckey, County Administrator; James Kuckkan, Watertown Daily Times; and Michael Miller.

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 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting minutes as written, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Report.
- Cicero reminded the committee that Land Conservation Committee training will take place June 30, 2026 in Madison.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Thayer discussed current NRCS programs.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Colton Hutchinson attended the first of three Wisconsin Lake Leader Institute sessions. Hutchinson conducted a nearshore fish survey on Rock Lake with a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant. Hutchinson attended an aquatic plant identification workshop. Hutchinson attended a Southern Lakes workshop. Hutchinson assisted the DNR with a Lower Spring Lake post treatment aquatic plant survey. Cicero, Hutchinson, Lake Ripley Management District and the DNR are performing a permanent pier survey on Lake Ripley and Rock Lake. Sam Peterson and Joe Strupp completed annual spot checks for the southeast quadrant of the county. Peterson attended Grazing Academy meetings. Strupp reviewed livestock siting materials associated with Rosy Lane Holstein's expansion. Strupp reviewed livestock siting amendment materials for the Seeger Bos farm. Cicero gave a presentation on LWCD programs at a Lunch and Learn for Jefferson County employees. Cicero attended a DNR enforcement conference with Daybreak Foods Palmyra for discharge of industrial waste.

10. Discussion on Southern Area Association (SAA) Meeting:
Cicero and Turville-Heitz attended the SAA meeting May 21, 2026. Jefferson is now the Area Coordinator with Cicero serving as Secretary. Turville-Heitz was elected as the SAA LCC Area Representative to the WI Land+Water Board.
11. Discussion on Manure Complaint Report:
Cicero gave an overview of the report and answered committee questions.
12. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) and Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): Schultz and Dean Weichmann hosted a successful JCSB field day May 28, 2026. R3G held a grazing workshop May 29, 2026 with Joel Salatin at the Brattset Family Farm.
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):
There were no notices.
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:
There were no cancellations.
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: Dave Hoffman will be sending information packets to interested landowners.
16. Review of the Monthly Financial Report:
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.
17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:
Possible agenda items include: Groundwater flow model demonstration.
 - Next Scheduled Meeting: July 15, 2026 at 8:30am in Room C2063
18. Adjournment:
Foelker made a motion to adjourn at 8:55am, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 6/0.