

Land and Water Conservation Committee Minutes

July 15, 2026

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:30am. Committee Members Matt Foelker (UW) (Vice-Chair), Margaret Burlingham (PACE), Walt Christensen, Elizabeth Hafften (UW) (via Teams), Scott Schultz (Ag) and Gary Skalitzky were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Colton Hutchinson, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Michael Luckey, County Administrator. Meg Turville-Heitz (Chair) was excused.

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin. Via Teams; Jennifer Johnson, Sue Marx, 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 June 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the June 17, 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.
- Southern Area Association Tour in Dane County August 12, 2026

8. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD staff participated at the Jefferson County Fair by offering land and water program information, well water nitrate screening, and the groundwater flow model. Cicero met with City of Fort Atkinson regarding a cost estimate for modeling a conservation practice to determine phosphorus and sediment reduction credits for a DNR stormwater permit. Hutchinson conducted aquatic plant surveys on Bean Lake, Heiden Pond, and Lake Victoria. Liakopoulos completed data entry for the surveys. Sam Peterson is signing cover crop cost share agreements. Strupp and Peterson are working with farms regarding the planning and approval of new manure storage structures. They are also taking part in preconstruction meetings as some construction is scheduled to begin this summer. Strupp and Peterson are working on FPP status reviews for farms spot-checked this year. Peterson attended online Grazing Academy meetings. Strupp completed work requested by the DNR on a statewide review of NR 151 compliance.

9. Discussion on Land Conservation Committee Training:

Burlingham, Christensen, Cicero, Skalitzky, and Turville-Heitz attended the training. All agreed the training was well run and informative.

10. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) and Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G): Cicero discussed a JCSB article written by Rock River Coalition. Schultz notified the committee of a JCSB meeting the first week of August, a JCSB field day at the Schultz farm in September, and a R3G field day at the Stern Farm on August 18. Cicero informed the committee that JCSB and R3G are working on their 2027 producer-led grant applications.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):
Mark & Kylene Anderson, Steven Hookstead, C&J Hutchins Trust, Tracy & Debra Reichert, Helen Weihert, Jeffrey Weihert.
Christensen made a motion to accept the notices, Skalitzky seconded. Motion passed 6/0.
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:
There were no cancellations.
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation: Dave Hoffman sent out program and application information to 16 interested landowners.
14. Discussion and Possible Action on LWCD Fees:
Cicero discussed the updated LWCD fees.
Burlingham made a motion to accept the updated fees, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.
15. Discussion and Possible Action on 2027 Department Budget:
Cicero has begun working on the 2027 department budget.
16. Review of the Monthly Financial Report:
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.
17. Presentation of Groundwater Flow Model - Colton Hutchinson:
Hutchinson gave a presentation of the groundwater flow model and answered committee questions.
18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:
Possible agenda items include: None provided.
 - Next Scheduled Meeting: August 19, 2026 at 8:30am in Room C2063
19. Adjournment:
Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:20am, Schultz seconded. Motion passed 6/0.