

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## March 18, 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), 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; Michael Luckey, County Administrator; Danielle Thompson, County Corporation Counsel; and Rafael Gonzalez-Pagan, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) (via Teams).

- Others in Attendance: Anita Martin, Sue Marx (via Teams), Michael (via Teams), James Kuckkan, Watertown Daily Times (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:

Turville-Heitz removed agenda item #17. Colton Hutchinson was unavailable.

### 5. Approval of the February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

Anita Martin gave public comment on items not on the agenda.

### 7. Communications:

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

### 8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Gonzalez-Pagan notified the committee that ranking has begun for EQIP contracts and pre-approval will begin in the coming weeks.

### 9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero, Turville-Heitz, Dave Hoffman, Colton Hutchinson, and Sam Peterson attended the annual WI Land+Water Conference. At the conference Cicero, Hoffman, and Maurene McBroom gave a presentation on the Watertown Waterways Improvement Program, Cicero was on a panel discussion regarding solar joint development agreements, and Turville-Heitz was on a panel discussion regarding communications between conservation staff and their committees. LWCD is hiring a summer watercraft inspector for the Rock Lake Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Cicero and Joe Strupp met with the UW-Extension Dairy Agent and Crop Agent to plan a listening session on the economic growth needs of farms and other agriculture businesses. Cicero, Strupp, and Peterson participated in a meeting regarding the statewide effort to determine compliance with state agriculture and livestock standards. Strupp and Peterson met with a landowner and a DATCP engineer regarding a manure storage closure. Hutchinson performed stream sampling work on inlet streams to Rock Lake. Cicero, Hutchinson, and Peterson met with a Rock Lake Improvement Association committee regarding steps that should be taken to reduce phosphorous in the watershed. Strupp and Peterson held a Nutrient Management Plan update class for farmers to write their own plan. The tree and shrub sale is ongoing even though available inventory is running low.

**10. Discussion on Avian Influenza Updates:**

Luckey discussed the County's ongoing effort to help with Avian Influenza. Luckey outlined some of the work being done by the Health Department with assistance from the LWCD with well water sampling. A letter sent to members of the Wisconsin State Legislature from the Jefferson County Health Department was discussed.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on Fourth Grade Farm Tour, Wednesday, May 6 at Kutz Dairy:**

The committee discussed the tour. LWCD staff, Burlingham, Christensen, and Schultz will volunteer. Turville-Heitz is tentative. Cicero will keep all volunteers informed as the tour approaches.

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

Schultz discussed an event hosted by Universal Co-Op and Dodge County Health Soils, Healthy Waters on March 31, 2026. Planting into covers, including drone seeding, will be featured. R3G is hosting a grazing workshop on May 29, 2026. JCSB will have a field day on planting green and harvestable buffers on land owned by Schultz and Dean Weichmann.

**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:**

No new updates.

**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:**

Postponed.

**18. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

Possible agenda items include:

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** To Be Determined

**19. Adjournment:**

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 9:10am, Foelker seconded. Motion passed 7/0.