Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Committee Agenda "Working Together to Protect & Enhance the Environment"

Jefferson County Courthouse 311 S Center Ave, Rm 205 Jefferson, WI 53549-1701

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 @ 8:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/94186699586
Meeting ID: 941 8669 9586#

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799

Committee Members: Matt Foelker (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice-Chair), Mike Kelly (Secretary), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), John Kannard (UWEX Member), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep)

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum)
- 3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
- 4. Review of the May Agenda
- 5. Approval of the April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- 6. Public Comment (members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)
- 7. Communications
 - Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) May 2021 Report
- 8. Discussion on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report
- 9. Discussion on Departmental Updates
- 10. Discussion on Jefferson County Soil Builders
- 11. Discussion on Non-Metallic Mining Permit Application
- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
- 13. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance FPP
- 14. Discussion on NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant in Partnership with American Farmland Trust
- 15. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation
- 16. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (March)
- 17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda
 - Next Scheduled Meeting June 16, 2021 @ 8:30 am in Room 205
- 18. Adjournment

A quorum of any Jefferson County Committee, Board, Commission or other body, including the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, may be present at this meeting.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the County Administrator 24 hours prior to the meeting at (920) 674-7101 so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes April 21, 2021

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:40 am. Committee members Matt Foelker (Chairperson), Walt Christensen (Vice-Chairperson), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE Rep) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos (LWCD); and Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders. Mike Kelly (Secretary), and Michelle Probst, Natural Resources Educator, UW-Madison in collaboration with Jefferson County Soil Builders were present via Zoom. John Kannard (UWEX Member) was absent.

Others in Attendance: Anita Martin (in person) and Frankie Fuller (via Zoom)

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 April Agenda:

The April agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

5. Approval of the March 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the March 17, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection April 2021 Report.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS didn't attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD has received a new non-metallic application that will be on the May meeting agenda. Multiple Farmland Preservation Program Annual Certifications have been received. Stream monitoring training will held 4/24/2021. Tree Sale distribution is 4/27 - 4/28/2021.

10. Discussion on the Jefferson County Soil Builders:

Weichmann & Probst spoke to the committee about the field day was that held April 14, 2021. It was well attended and informative. A Board of Directors will be decided at the next Soil Builders meeting.

11. Discussion on the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program Plan:

Cicero, Nancy Lannert (LWCD), and Joe Strupp (LWCD) are developing a plan to use the MDV program money. LWCD is working on establishing a cover crop program, a mentor program for farmers new to cover crops, and a pasture establishment program.

12. Discussion on the County Farm Tile Drainage Repair:

After contacting seven companies, three tiling repair/replacement quotes were received. Cicero accepted the quote from Fish Drainage. Based on the method and type of repair Fish Drainage will be the most cost effective in the long run. Tiling work started the first week of April.

- **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:

Gerry Kokkonen is assisting a current applicant with refuse clean up that must be completed by May 15, 2021. Kokkonen and NRCS are planning a site visit.

16. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (February):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

17. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Non Metallic Mining Program

• Next Scheduled Meeting: May 19, 2021 @ 8:30 am in Room 205

18. Adjournment:

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

Kim Liakopoulos Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5/5/2021

CONTACT: April Ann Opatik Murray, E: aopatik@farmland.org ● P: (815) 267-1326

American Farmland Trust and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to Partner on Project to Accelerate Farmland Protection in Wisconsin

The goal to dramatically increase the number of acres permanently protected, improve soil health, water quality and address climate impacts.

MADSION, WI – Today, American Farmland Trust and the Natural Resource Conservation
Service announce they will join together on the "Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership
Project" through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to address the need for increased agricultural conservation easement funding in the state. The project will leverage over \$7 million in partner contributions for an additional \$7 million in federal funding to stem farmland loss, incentivize the increased adoption of regenerative practices on protected land, and identify farmland access opportunities for historically underserved producers.

The project will be led by AFT and the NRCS and bring together a host of partners including: Tall Pines Conservancy, Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Groundswell Conservancy, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, North Central Conservancy Trust, Town of Dunn, Town of Greenville, Rock County, Jefferson County, The Savanna Institute, Gathering Waters, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, UW-Division of Extension, UW-Dept. of Agronomy, WI Land + Water, and Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection. Together the partners will work to maximize the impact of permanent protection while fostering environmental benefits and addressing equity issues in farmland access.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this significant and innovative statewide partnership project," says Susan Buchanan, Executive Director of Tall Pines Conservancy. "Land Trusts that have been working diligently to protect farmland across the state will now have this critical tool available to them to preserve more agricultural land that is essential to our state's economy and defines our rural character for which Wisconsin is known."

In AFT's recent release of <u>Farms Under Threat</u>, we found Wisconsin is among the leading states in the nation for the conversion of agricultural land to urban, highly developed, and low-density residential land use. Between 2001 and 2016, nearly 250,000 acres of land was converted out of agricultural use—lost land that could have generated \$190 million in annual revenue. Our response is utilizing easement dollars strategically, where they are most needed.

Wisconsin has some of the best agricultural land in the country, with 61% of the state's farmland considered nationally significant. Across the state, farmers strive to keep their land in farming yet have limited financial options to help ensure the continued availability of farmland. One of the key mechanisms for permanently protecting valuable agricultural land has been



unavailable to serve the farmers it was created to help. The RCPP project will enable partners to stretch federal funds and support farmers who wish to protect their land for future generations.

"We see the Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership Project as a real opportunity to respond to and address significant farmland loss identified in the AFT Farms Under Threat report," expresses Alison Volk, Easement Project Manager of American Farmland Trust. "The RCPP project will enable partners to protect important farmland across the state. Agricultural easements can anchor larger blocks of farmland and support the future of sustainable farming in Wisconsin."

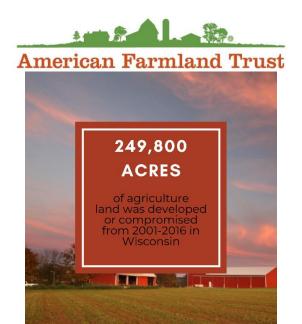
"The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is public-private partnership working at its best," says Terry Cosby, Acting Chief for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "These new projects will harness the power of partnership to help bring about solutions to natural resource concerns across the country while supporting our efforts to combat the climate crisis."

Over the next 5 years, the partnership will utilize easement dollars strategically, informed by the expertise of practitioners and AFT's Farms Under Threat analysis, to help protect land where that protection may have the greatest impact.

The funds from this project will continue American Farmland Trust's work to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. Special thanks to the many partners who made this project possible.

##

American Farmland Trust is the only national organization that takes a holistic approach to agriculture, focusing on the land itself, the agricultural practices used on that land, and the farmers and ranchers who do the work. AFT launched the conservation agriculture movement and continues to raise public awareness through our No Farms No Food message. Since our founding in 1980, AFT has helped permanently protect over 6.8 million acres of agricultural lands, advanced environmentally-sound farming practices on millions of additional acres and supported thousands of farm families.





DATCP REPORT

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

May 2021

Soil and Water Resources Management Grants

- Counties should receive their 2021 SWRM Schedule of Awards in late May.
- Counties awarded NMFE and/or SEG innovation grants should have received or will shortly be receiving their contracts for signature. If you have not received a contract by May 15, please contact <u>datcpswrm@wisconsin.gov</u>.

Producer-led Grant Program

• The *Planting New Ideas, Growing Conservation* Producer-Led Webinar Series is coming up. The next webinar will be on May 11th, 2021. Program staff have been planning a new take on the webinar series that will take a deeper dive into two conservation, soil-health based systems that will feature 4 farmers in different areas of the state. The webinars will track the progression of these systems over the course of the growing season.

Land and Water Conservation Board-LWRM Plans

• The next LWCB meeting will be June 1, 2021. Green County will be presenting their LWRM plan revision for approval. Forest county will present a progress update on the county's LWRM plan. The meeting will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams and links will be provided. Please contact zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov for questions regarding joining via Microsoft Teams.

Farmland Preservation Program and Agricultural Enterprise Areas

• The 2021 Agricultural Enterprise Area petition period is open! Petitions are due by August 2, 2021. The application, instructions, and examples of successful petitions are available on the Petitioning for AEA Designation at the following link. Please contact Wednesday Jordan at wednesday.jordan@wisconsin.gov with any questions.

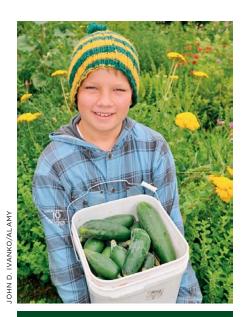
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- USDA Washington posted FSA Notice CRP-929 this week that made some changes to the payment rates for CRP programs. Once the updated soil rental rates are posted we will have a better idea of how this will impact CREP rental rates in Wisconsin. FSA State office also notified us that their local offices have taken a pause from accepting new enrollments for all CRP programs until the new soil rental rates are published and their enrollment software is updated. Local FSA offices are instructed to take producer inquiries and reach back out once the updates are available and they can take enrollment offers. FSA state does suggest that interested landowners still go into the FSA local office so they can at least have an initial eligibility determined and a quick review of current cover. LCD offices are encouraged to continue to promote CREP and have interested landowners reach out to their FSA offices to get their name on the list.
- Virtual CREP 101 Training is offered by DATCP to all CREP counties. The training is offered per LCD request and
 reviews program requirements, landowner engagement, agency partnership coordination and county administrative
 processes. All local agency partners are invited to attend and the training is valuable to both new and seasoned local
 CREP staff. Please contact Brian Loeffelholz at Brian.Loeffelholz@wisconsin.gov to set up a time for training in
 your county.

Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) Program

- The AIS program is currently drafting an AIS for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation I-41 expansion project in Outagamie and Brown Counties. The AIS program is activity reaching out to affected agricultural landowners and consulting with impacted units of government regarding the project.
- Contact <u>zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov</u> for questions regarding this ongoing AIS statement or the AIS program.





for the conversion of agricultural land to urban, highly developed, and low-density residential land use. Between 2001 and 2016, nearly 250,000 acres of land was converted out of agricultural use—lost land that could have generated \$190 million in annual revenue.

What's at stake when Wisconsin loses its agricultural land?

Agriculture contributes nearly \$105 billion to Wisconsin's economy and over 11% of the state's employment. As agricultural land disappears, so do jobs and businesses that rely on that land. Farmland also provides a significant opportunity for improving the state's environmental resources and helping meet the increasing challenges of a changing climate. Regenerative agricultural practices on farmland are among the most costeffective and immediate climate solutions. Such practices can help mitigate extreme

weather events, capture carbon, and improve water quality. With every farmland acre we lose, options for addressing environmental resource concerns become more limited.

Not all agricultural land is equal, and some of the best land is at risk.

Wisconsin has some of the best agricultural land in the country, with 61% of the state's farmland considered nationally significant. Wisconsin is a critical contributor to national long-term crop production and food security.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

Alison Volk
American Farmland Trust
Easement Project Manager
608-478-0916
avolk@farmland.org
farmland.org

Agricultural land loss not only impacts the state's economy, it also has grave implications for our country's ability to produce our own food.

Wisconsin needs an option for permanent protection.

Wisconsin has needed more tools to help ensure the continued availability of farmland for a long time. One of the key mechanisms for permanently protecting valuable agricultural land has been unavailable to serve the farmers it was created to help. In 2009, Wisconsin passed the Working Lands Initiative, creating the state's first ever Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements program. After funding one round of easements, however, no additional resources were allocated to the program, creating a significant hurdle for farmers seeking options to keep their land available for agriculture.

The Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership Project

seeks to address the need for increased agricultural conservation easement funding in the state. The partnership plans to slow the loss of vital agricultural land by accelerating permanent land protection statewide.

GOALS

The goals of the **Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership Project** are to:

- Dramatically increase the number of farms and acres permanently protected in the next five years
- Utilize easement dollars strategically, where they are most needed. In consultation with land trust and local government partners, the groups will use AFT's Farms Under Threat analysis and tools to help protect land where that protection may have the greatest impact.
- Leverage partner contributions to access federal funding for conservation practices. The partnership will incentivize the increased adoption of regenerative practices on protected land, both to help invest in the state's soil resources, water quality, and to ensure those lands where investments occur are not lost to future development.
- Demonstrate to state decisionmakers that agricultural conservation easements, when used purposefully and in conjunction with other land use tools, can effectively preserve the state's agricultural land base.
- Increase farmland access and tenure opportunities for historically disadvantaged and underserved farmers.

PARTNERS INCLUDE American Farmland Trust, Tall Pines Conservancy, Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Groundswell Conservancy, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, North Central Conservancy Trust, Town of Dunn, Rock County, Jefferson County, The Savanna Institute, Gathering Waters, UW-Division of Extension, UW-Dept. of Agronomy, WI Land + Water, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, and Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection



 04/22/2021
 Jefferson County
 PAGE 1

 13:31:41
 FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT
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ACCOUNTS FOR: 100 General Fund	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
12401 Land Conservation							
12401 411100 General Property Taxes 12401 421001 State Aid 12401 432099 Other Permits 12401 451010 Sale Of Maps & Plat Books 12401 451010 Other Fees 12401 451020 Other Fees 12401 458001 Tree Sales 12401 458001 Tree Sales 12401 458009 Livestock Siting App Review F 12401 458009 Livestock Siting App Review F 12401 458013 Farmland Cert Fee 12401 511110 Salary-Permanent Regular 12401 511210 Wages-Regular 12401 511210 Wages-Longevity Pay 12401 511214 Social Security 12401 512141 Social Security 12401 512142 Retirement (Employer) 12401 512145 Life Insurance 12401 512145 Life Insurance 12401 512151 HSA Contribution 12401 512173 Dental Insurance 12401 531100 Permits Purchased 12401 531310 Office Equipment 12401 531311 Postage & Box Rent 12401 531312 Office Supplies 12401 531314 Small Items Of Equipment 12401 531314 Small Items Of Equipment 12401 531314 Agricultural & Hortic Suppli 12401 531341 Agricultural & Hortic Suppli 12401 531341 Agricultural & Hortic Suppli 12401 531341 Agricultural & Hortic Suppli 12401 531349 Other Operating Expenses 12401 532325 Registration 12401 532336 Lodging 12401 532336 Lodging 12401 533225 Telephone & Fax 12401 533225 Telephone & Fax 12401 533226 Wireless Internet 12401 535242 Maintain Machinery & Equip	-350,330 -164,693 -150 -50 -310 -8,000 -2,200 -17,000 81,302 289,837 904 27,350 25,113 64,122 105 5,250 5,448 100 50 1,200 400 250 1,904 4,500 1,200 860 1,200 860 1,200	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	-350,330 -164,693 -150 -50 -310 -100 -8,000 -8,000 -2,200 -17,000 81,302 289,837 904 27,350 25,113 64,122 105 5,250 5,448 0 100 400 250 1,200 4,500 1,200 1,200 860 20 1,200	-87,582.60	.00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00	-50.00 -290.00 -100.00 -303.40 -50.00 -2,200.00 -8,850.00 61,203.86 223,580.07 903.75 21,087.25 19,284.09 50,061.13 80.57 2,458.59 4,247.81 -30.75 1000 -159.49 786.13 589.33 400.00 -159.49 786.13 589.33 400.00 -159.49 786.13 589.33 400.00 -159.49 786.13 589.33 400.00 -159.49 786.13 589.33 400.00 -159.49 786.13 589.33 400.00 -159.49 786.13 589.33 400.00 -159.49 786.13	34.5% 1.8% .0% 24.8% 96.8% .0% .0% 2.7% 16.3% .0% .0% .0%
12401 535242 Maintain Machinery & Equip	800	0	800	65.59	.00	734.41	8.2%



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ACCOUNTS FOR: 100 General Fund	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
12401 535259 Tree Planter Service 12401 535349 Other Supplies 12401 571004 IP Telephony Allocation 12401 571005 Duplicating Allocation 12401 571009 MIS PC Group Allocation 12401 571010 MIS Systems Grp Alloc(ISIS) 12401 591519 Other Insurance	50 80 941 63 19,325 4,420 4,465	0 0 0 0 0 0	50 80 941 63 19,325 4,420 4,465	.00 .00 235.26 15.75 4,831.26 1,104.99 1,052.85	.00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00	50.00 80.00 705.74 47.25 14,493.74 3,315.01 3,412.27	.0% .0% 25.0% 25.0% 25.0% 25.0% 23.6%
12402 Wildlife Crop Damage 12402 421001 State Aid 12402 529299 Purchase Care & Services 12404 Local Cost Share Program	-20,000 20,000	0 0	-20,000 20,000	.00	.00	-20,000.00 20,000.00	.0%
12404 Local Cost Share Program 12404 421001 State Aid 12404 472337 24404 Municipal Grant Revenue 12404 521219 Other Professional Serv 12404 521219 24404 Other Professional Serv	-5,500 0 5,500	0 -11,129 0 11,129	-5,500 -11,129 5,500 11,129	.00 -20,777.02 .00 .00	.00 .00 .00	-5,500.00 9,647.82 5,500.00 11,129.20	.0% 186.7% .0%
12405 DATCP Cost Share 12405 421003 State Aid GPR 12405 421004 State Aid Bonded 12405 593701 Cost Share Payment	-12,000 -33,750 45,750	0 0 0	-12,000 -33,750 45,750	.00	.00	-12,000.00 -33,750.00 45,750.00	.0% .0% .0%
12406 Non-Metallic Mining 12406 411100 General Property Taxes 12406 432004 Non-Metallic Permit Fee 12406 432005 Non-Metallic Annual Fee 12406 474175 Highway Billed 12406 531311 Postage & Box Rent 12406 531312 Office Supplies 12406 531348 Educational Supplies 12406 531351 Gas/Diesel 12406 532325 Registration 12406 532335 Meals	10,825 0 -9,430 -2,035 60 50 25 50 100 25	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	10,825 0 -9,430 -2,035 60 50 25 50 100 25	2,706.24 -900.00 -350.00 .00 21.00 .00 .00 .00	.00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00 .00	8,118.76 900.00 -9,080.00 -2,035.00 39.00 50.00 25.00 100.00 25.00	25.0% .0% 3.7% .0% 35.0% .0% .0% .0%



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ACCOUNTS FOR: 100 General Fund	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
12406 532336 Lodging	330	0	330	.00	.00	330.00	.0%
12407 Farmland Easement							
12407 481001 Interest & Dividends 12407 531311 Postage & Box Rent 12407 531312 Office Supplies 12407 531313 Printing & Duplicating 12407 594960 Capital Reserve 12407 699800 Resv Applied Capital	-3,000 25 125 20 137,660 -134,830	0 0 0 0 -1,903 1,903	-3,000 25 125 20 135,757 -132,927	-33.32 .00 .00 .00 .00	.00 .00 .00 .00 .00	-2,966.68 25.00 125.00 20.00 135,756.69 -132,926.69	1.1% .0% .0% .0% .0%
12408 County Farm							
12408 411100 General Property Taxes 12408 482003 County Farm Land Rent 12408 529170 Grounds Keeping Charges 12408 535249 Sundry Repair	97,351 -100,427 1,076 2,000	0 0 0 0	97,351 -100,427 1,076 2,000	24,337.74 -50,213.25 74.32 .00	.00 .00 .00 21,905.64	73,013.18 -50,213.75 1,001.76 -19,905.64	25.0% 50.0% 6.9%



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	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	0	-21,770.35	21,905.64	-135.29	.0%