

# **Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes**

## **October 16, 2019**

**1. Call to Order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:30 am. Committee members Matt Foelker (Chairperson), Walt Christensen (Vice-Chairperson), Ed Morse (Secretary), Dan Herbst (UWEX Member), Frank Anfang (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (Member) were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Interim Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; J. Blair Ward, County Corporation Counsel; Jim Schroeder, County Board Chairman; Cody Calkins, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); and Dave Terrall, Wildlife Damage. Mike Kelly (UWEX Member) was absent.

- Others in Attendance: Carl Glassford, Anita Martin, Janet Foust

**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 October Agenda:**

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

**5. Approval of the September 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes:**

Anfang made a motion to approve the September 18, 2019 meeting minutes as written, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

**6. Public Comment:**

Foust gave public comment on item #12. Martin gave public comment on item #12.

**7. Communications:**

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection October 2019 Report.

**8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2019 Crop Prices and 2020 Budget for the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program - Dave Terrall:**

Terrall discussed the 2020 County Budget/Financial Plan. Christensen made a motion to approve the budget, Anfang seconded. Motion passed 6/0. Terrall discussed the 2019 Crop Price Proposal. Anfang made a motion to accept the crop prices as listed, amend the hay - alfalfa - grass to \$250/ton, and amend the 90% harvested crops to no later than December 31, 2019, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 6/0.

**9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:**

NRCS is waiting for the Farm Bill to pass and the rules to be published before any programs will be available for sign up.

**10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:**

Cicero started the process to transfer unused nutrient management (SEG) cost share dollars to Columbia County. LWDC will host Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) training with DATCP. The 2019/2020 Annual Tree Sale is underway.

**11. Discussion on the Badger State Solar Proposed Solar Facility:**

Ward gave an overview of the process the County is going through with Badger State Solar. Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator is presenting the Joint Development Agreement the County is working on with Badger State Solar to the County Board on 10/22/19. The agreement will then go to the Executive Committee on 10/30/19. The Public Service Commission is hosting a public hearing on the project on 11/6/19.

**12. Discussion on Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) Update:**

Cicero presented a summary of the process to update the LWRMP.

**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. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (August):**

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

**16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:**

Kokkonen submitted an easement application to NRCS in April 2019. The application was not awarded funding by the NRCS due to a covenant restricting land use and thereby perceived as being less valuable. Burlingham suggested Kokkonen discuss a donated easement with the applicant. 4 easements were awarded financial assistance by the NRCS State office for 2019; 2 in the town of Dunn - Dane County, 2 in Rock County.

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

Possible agenda items include: Proposed Badger State Solar Facility.

**18. Next Scheduled Meeting:**

- November 20, 2019 @ 8:30 am in Room 112

**19. Adjournment:**

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

*Kim Liakopoulos  
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD*