

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

December 18, 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), Mike Kelly (UWEX Member) (@ 8:33), Frank Anfang (FSA Rep) (@ 8:35), 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; and Cody Calkins, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

- Others in Attendance: Janet Foust, Anita Martin, Frankie Fuller

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 December Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the November 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Morse made a motion to approve the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes as written, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

Fuller gave comment opposing item #13. Martin asked for an update of the LWRMP during item #9.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) December 2019 Report
- Update on American Farmland Trust - LWCC Meeting Attendance: Due to staff changes at American Farmland Trust they will need to collect data and attend a future LWCD meeting.
- Update on Wisconsin Land + Water - LWCC Meeting Attendance: WI Land + Water will attend the same future meeting as American Farmland Trust.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Cody Calkins discussed the NRCS report. CRP general sign up deadline is 2/28/20.

9. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

LWCD staff attended the 2019 Soil, Water & Nutrient Management meeting, Cicero attended the WI Land & Water Conservation Association County Conservationist meeting, Cicero is assisting Lake Ripley Management District and Majestic Pines Homeowners Association with understanding possible restoration grants, Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) update is ongoing, Cicero is looking for people to add to a LWRMP Committee.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes Grant Application Resolution:

Cicero discussed the grant resolution. Kelly made a motion to approve the resolution, Anfang seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Multi-Discharger Variance Application:

Cicero outlined the application which has a deadline of 1/1/20. Anfang made a motion to approve the application, Kelly seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

12. Discussion on County Farm Tile System and Repair:

No new information at this time. This item will be discussed at the February meeting.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Combining Land & Water Conservation Committee with University Extension Education Committee:

Cicero - No formal recommendation yet. Earliest discussion will be in February 2020. Christensen made a motion to oppose combining these two committees based on the following reasons: lack of cost savings, no cross-over interest, length of meeting causing a lack of focus, more staff time will be required taking the staff away from their duties, LWCC has already merged with Farmland Easement Commission, Kelly seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP): There were no notices.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:

There were no cancellations.

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

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

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

Kokkonen - No new applications for purchased agreements. Donated easements are showing some interest.

18. Discussion on PACE Application Deadline:

Kokkonen - NRCS will begin evaluating applications March 2020.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Item #12

20. Next Scheduled Meeting:

It was decided by the Committee that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on February 19, 2020 at 8:30 in Room 112.

- February 19, 2020 @ 8:30 am in Room 112

21. Adjournment:

Herbst made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 am, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

*Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD*