

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2024 LCC Monthly Meeting

Meeting Room D, James P. Coughlin Center

& Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Convene: The meeting/hearing was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:02 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn (virtual), Chuck Farrey, Julie Gordon, Doug Nelson, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer

**LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper & Melanie Leet

Others present: Levi Schultz, NRCS

Absent: Kay Horan

Confirm Meeting/Agenda has been Properly Public Noticed in Accordance with County Policy: Chairman Farrey confirmed with Director Casper that the meeting had been properly public noticed.

Approve March 14, 2024, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Nelson/Zellmer motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Agency Reports: Levi Schultz, NRCS distributed a 2023 NRCS Wisconsin Annual Report to the LCC.

Director's Report:

- Director Casper told the LCC that he is attending the WI Towns Association Unit Meeting tonight to report on the Livestock Waste Management Ordinance (LWMO) and when permits are needed.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Stone LWMO Decision was completed and they have 30 days to appeal to the Circuit Court, otherwise the LWCD will work with them to get the after the fact permit issued for their facility.
- Director Casper told the LCC that he is working on completing the DATCP workplan along with the grant application that is due April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that there is a hold-up with Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and USDA with the Climate Smart Commodities Grant and will have to delay farmer enrollment until fall of 2024. Casper said he was frustrated with this unexpected delay, but it will allow Eric Bertram, Grant Soil Health Specialist to onboard, develop relationships, and help farms prepare for implementation.
- Casper let the LCC know that the Tree Day is planned for April 9<sup>th</sup> and there will be over 150,000 trees planted in Winnebago County this year.
- Director Casper again informed the LCC Deer Donation Program was not able to reimburse Beck's Meat Processing for all the deer they processed due to some not being tested for CWD. Casper said that we reached out to Beck's Meat Processing to determine if they would be interested again in being a processor if there was a way to get them reimbursed for the remaining 10 deer. Casper said that we have not heard back from Beck's Meat on if they are interested.
- Director Casper distributed the 2023 LWCD Annual Report to the LCC and said that it would be distributed to others soon.
- Director Casper told the LCC that it was a pleasure working with this committee over the last couple years and there were many great conservation efforts accomplished with their support during this time.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey also said that it was a pleasure working with this committee during this time and they have all accomplished some great work. Farrey said that he hopes many of the existing LCC members

will want to be on the committee again for the next two years.

- Chairman Farrey discussed the reappointment of Dan Stokes and Bruce Bohn as citizen members of the LCC at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> County Board Meeting. Stokes and Bohn both confirmed that they are still interested in being on the LCC.

#### Business Items:

##### Report: Installation of Manure Storage System Closure Practices in the County

Melanie Leet, Resource Conservationist described to the LCC the potential groundwater concerns with existing idle manure storage systems. Leet explained the process of properly designing and abandoning idle manure storage system closure projects in the County. Leet also informed the LCC that several manure storage system closure projects are being designed by the LWCD over the next year or two. The LCC thanked Leet for her informative presentation.

##### Action Item: LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-SH-24-04, Richard Wisnefske Cover Crops & No-Till Practices for \$4,503.54 & SFP-BMP-24-03, Bohn Farms Inc. Animal Waste Storage System Abandonment Project for \$15,026.20

Following a review of the CSAs, a Gordon/Zellmer motion to approve \$4,503.54 for the Richard Wisnefske Cover Crops & No-Till Practices & \$15,026.20 for the Bohn Farms Inc. Animal Waste Storage System Abandonment Project passed 5-0

##### Review the LWCD Project Lists

Director Casper reminded the LCC that he is now including soft practices as part of the LWCD project lists moving forward. The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

A Nelson/Stokes motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. passed 5-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder