

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2023 LCC Monthly Meeting
Meeting Room A, James P. Coughlin Center
& Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:03 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Julie Gordon (Zoom), Kay Horan, Doug Nelson & Dan Stokes

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Emily Dufeck & Jody Bezio

Others present: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS, Olivia Hoffman, Glacierland RC&D

Absent: Doug Zellmer (excused)

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 April 6, 2023 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Nelson/Horan motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Supervisor Horan informed everyone that on a recent vacation, she saw that educational watershed signs were present in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and thought this would be a good idea for the watersheds in the county. Director Casper stated that similar signs were put up during the priority watershed years to educate the public, but haven't been done since.

Announcements:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that the 2023 Tree Day was held on April 11th and there were over 22,000 trees and shrubs distributed to landowners.
- Director Casper explained to the LCC that the 2024 budget process is taking a new approach based on Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) and will be presented to the LCC in October.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Climate Smart USDA grants negotiations continue to advance with USDA and we anticipate that agreements will be in place by mid-summer.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that Monsanto Class Action Settlement in regards to PCB-related impairments to the environment has settled and the LWCD has received over \$27k. Casper stated that these funds can be used on any conservation projects that result in pollutant reductions in the county.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that Korin Doering, Director of the Winnebago Waterways Program has accepted a new position and will be resigning from Fox-Wolf. Her last day as the WW Director will be Friday, May 12. Casper stated that Korin was instrumental in the development of the Winnebago Waterways Program and she will be missed.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey gave the LCC an overview for the process in developing and approving the LWCD Spirit Policy Plan over the next several months. Farrey stated that the goal is to have it completed and approved by the end of summer.

Business Items:

Update on the Development of a Producer-Led Watershed Group in the County

Emily Dufeck gave the LCC a presentation on the advancement of a Producer-Led Watershed Group in the county. Dufeck informed the LCC that Jim Luedtke, producer, was interested in starting a producer-led group along with about a dozen other producers in the county. Dufeck said that there needs to be a group of at least 5 eligible

producers all working together to improve water quality through conservation activities. Dufeck said that there would need to be a leadership structure led by a producer and a collaborator with an approved MOU (that could be the LWCD). Dufeck also said that there is around \$1,000,000 available each fiscal year and the grants cannot exceed \$40,000 per group per year. Director Casper stated that we would need to know our role stated in the MOU and ensure that the LWCD was not overcommitting. Bruce Bohn commented that in the MOU it should also be clear that the LWCD is not liable if deliverables are not met in the grant by the Producer-Led Group. Casper mentioned that this will continue to be discussed with the local producers and if a grant application were submitted, it would not be until late summer of 2023. The LCC thanked Dufeck for her informative presentation.

Review and Approve NR 151/ATCP 50 Implementation/Compliance Notification Letter

Director Casper reviewed the notification letter summary sheet and compliance letter. Following a brief discussion, a Bohn/Nelson motion to approve the letter passed 5-0.

Update from Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Olivia Hoffman, Glacierland RC&D passed out an information flyer to the LCC and gave a report on Glacierland RC&D and some of the programs they have to offer. Hoffman discussed the regenerative agriculture position within their agency and the managed rotational grazing assistance they have available. Hoffman also explained the invasive species – phragmites project along with other support that Glacierland RC&D can provide. The LCC thanked Hoffman for the update.

Review and Approve the Contents of the LWCD Spirit Fund Policy Plan, Structural Best Management Program (BMP)

Chairman Farrey and Director Casper gave the LCC an overview of the first section of the Draft LWCD Spirit Fund Policy Plan, Structural BMP Program. Farrey stated that he would prefer to approve the Structural BMP Program and then the other sections would be approved over the next several months. Casper stated that the Soil Health Program section would be on the June agenda for LCC review and approval. Farrey said that the complete LWCD Spirit Fund Policy Plan would then come back to the LCC for final approval and additional amendments could be made at that time.

Following a lengthy discussion, a Bohn/Stokes motion to amend the cover page of the Structural BMP Program to change bullet point #3 to read: Cost-sharing for each individual structural BMP will have a maximum cap of \$50,000 **annually**. passed 3-2. A Horan/Nelson motion to approve the cover page of the Structural BMP Program as amended passed 5-0.

Following a brief discussion, a Horan motion to amend the Rain Gardens - Attachment 1 to change bullet point #2 to read: The SFP will provide ~~90%~~ **80%** of the initial cost to establish one rain garden for any given landowner. motion not seconded, motion failed A Bohn/Stokes motion to approve the Rain Gardens - Attachment 1 as proposed passed 5-0.

Following a brief discussion, a Nelson/Horan motion to approve the Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas (SHRUB) – Attachment 2 passed 5-0.

Following a brief discussion, a Nelson/Horan motion to approve the Well Abandonment – Attachment 3 passed 5-0.

Following a short discussion, a Bohn motion to amend the Wetland Scrape – Attachment 4 to change bullet point #4 to read: The SFP will provide up to ~~70%~~ **90%** of the cost of construction and seeding. motion not seconded, motion failed A Nelson/Horan motion to approve the Wetland Scrape – Attachment 4 as proposed passed 5-0.

Supervisor Gordon suggested adding a bullet point to the Demonstration Projects – Attachment 6 to allow access to demonstration projects for educational purposes. After a lengthy discussion, a Nelson/Stokes motion to amend the

Demonstration Projects – Attachment 6 to add a new bullet point to read: **Landowner must be willing to work with the LWCD to allow access to the demonstration project for educational purposes.** passed 4-1. A Nelson/Horan motion to approve the Demonstration Projects – Attachment 6 as amended passed 4-1.

Supervisor Gordon was excused at 11:00

Supervisor Horan was excused at 11:05

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) - CSA 23-05, Mary Miller Well Abandonment Project for \$375.00, CSA 23-06, Daniel Johnson Well Abandonment Project for \$375.00 & CSA 23-07, Kirsten Buckstaff Shoreline Restoration for Developed Areas Project for \$3,377.50

Following a review of the CSAs, a Nelson/Bohn motion to approve \$375.00 for the Mary Miller well abandonment project, \$375.00 for the Daniel Johnson well abandonment project & \$3,377.50 for the Kirsten Buckstaff Shoreline Restoration for Developed Areas passed 4-0

Review the LWCD Project List

The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the list.

A Nelson/Bohn motion made to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.m. passed 4-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder