

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2022 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 11:00 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Julie Gordon, Kay Horan, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper & Andy Maracini

Others present: Merrie Schamberger & Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS

Absent: Doug Nelson

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 August 4, 2022 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Zellmer/Horan motion to approve the minutes passed 4-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

None

Announcements:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that Tews Acres, LLC is attempting to get their cropland in compliance with the Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions to be eligible for the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit. Casper explained that Tews was out of compliance due to ongoing cropland gully erosion. Tews filled in one of the gullies and installed a french drain in the other in an attempt to be compliant. Casper said that due to the nature of the past erosion documented in aerial photos, the LWCD will need to re-evaluate these fields in the spring of 2023. Casper told the LCC that a letter will be sent explaining all these details to Tews Acres, LLC.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the 2023 LWCD budget was reviewed with Exec. Doemel with minimal changes. Casper explained that there will be two add requests, one to replace the LWCD 2003 F-150 and the other to request training funds to attend the 2023 NACD Annual Meeting.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the LWCD will be presenting on wetland restorations at the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Annual Meeting on September 25th.
- Director Casper reminded the LCC that the LWCD in partnership with the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farms Network are holding a field day at the Gehrke Family Farm on September 8th from 10 am to 1 pm.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the WDNR is planning an audit for the County's MS4 permit the end of September.
- Merrie Schamberger briefly explained the reorganization within the NRCS and introduced Lynn Szulczewski as the lead District Conservationist for Outagamie and Winnebago counties. Szulczewski gave everyone some background of herself and the LCC welcomed her to Winnebago County.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey let the LCC know that a resolution was brought forward to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee in August by himself and Supervisor Norton to amend the current County Board rules to allow members of a committee to vote remotely, but the motion failed 0-5. Farrey is still hoping to advance this resolution to the full County Board in September.

Business Items:

Discussion on Producer-Led Watershed Protection Groups and Grants

Director Casper reviewed the Producer-Led Watershed Grants with the LCC. Casper informed the LCC that Jim Luedtke, producer, was interested in potentially starting a producer-led group. Casper explained that there needs to be a group of at least 5 eligible producers all working together to improve water quality through conservation activities. Casper said this could be accomplished through education, outreach and conservation practices. Casper 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. Casper stated that there is around \$1,000,000 available each fiscal year and the grants cannot exceed \$40,000 per group per year. 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.

Update on the barnyard inventory for the 9 Key Element Watershed Plan, "Healthy Land Healthy Water"

Director Casper explained to the LCC that the barnyard inventory is required by the WDNR for the final approval of the 9 Key Element (9KE) Watershed Plan. Casper stated that the LWCD is completing the inventory for the top 4 highest pollutant watersheds to begin with. Casper said that initially aerial photos were reviewed in the office to locate any potential barnyards that were running off into surface water. These sites will then have letters sent to them to review our Livestock Waste Management Ordinance and get the additional information needed to run the BARNY model to determine pollutant numbers. Casper said that we also will need to do cost estimates for the BMPs that may be needed to address the issues and all this information will be submitted for the final approval of the 9KE Watershed Plan.

Update and Review changes in the County GIS System

Andy Maracini gave the LCC an overview of the updated County GIS system and explained how it is making LWCD operations run more efficiently. Maracini also showcased how the drone can be used to create current aerial photos of a given site. Maracini explained that this technology allows the LWCD to not have to wait for new aerial photos to be flown every 3-5 years. Maracini stated that this information is very useful for monitoring and overall documentation of conservation practices for the LWCD.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share

Agreements (CSAs) - CSA 22-07, Anna & Richard Hayes Well Abandonment Project for \$375.00, CSA 22-10, Donald Wokosin Well Abandonment Project for \$500.00 & CSA 19-14, Fox/Wolf Demonstration Farms Network c/o Waupaca County LWCD Amendment to change the installation period

Following a review of the CSAs, a Horan/Stokes motion to approve \$375.00 for the Anna & Richard Hayes Well Abandonment Project, \$500.00 for the Donald Wokosin Well Abandonment Project and the Amendment to change the installation period for the Fox/Wolf Demonstration Farms Network c/o Waupaca County LWCD passed 4-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Zellmer/Horan motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m. passed 4-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder