

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of September 7, 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 10:37 a.m.

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

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper

Others present: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS

Absent: None

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 3, 2023, LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Horan/Stokes motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Agency Reports:

Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS informed the LCC that contracts for the current fiscal year are being completed. Szulczewski also stated that more EQIP funding will be available in 2024 and that she would keep the LCC updated on the new Farm Bill.

Announcements:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that the 2024 LWCD budget will be reviewed at the October LCC meeting.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that in 2023, Becks Meats has offered to be the processor in Winnebago County for the Deer Donation Program.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that Rebeca Bravo is the new USDA-Wildlife Services specialist that will be taking over for Maddy Pfaff administering the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) in Green Lake, Marquette, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago .
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the Thistle Dairy, LLC constructed a feed runoff/manure storage pit without a permit from the LWCD or the WDNR. Casper stated that we are working with the WDNR to confirm the pit was installed according to proper design specifications and standards and to get the construction documentation from Thistle Dairy, LLC. Casper said that the LWCD would then issue an after the fact livestock waste management permit.
- Director Casper reminded the LCC about the LWLWCA meeting in Green Lake on September 15th and that the deadline to signup is September 8th.
- Director Casper told the LCC that the LWCD is slowly working on making improvements to their website.
- Supervisor Horan stated that she has received positive comments on the LWCD approval of Spirit Funds. Supervisor Nelson asked if the interest earned from the LWCD approved funds could be allocated in the LWCD. Chairman Farrey said that his understanding was that the interest earned, would not be allocated back to the LWCD.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that the Resolution to create eight standing committees and major boards was incorrect because the proposed Natural Resources Committee, which would consist of UWEX and the Parks Department, has the duties and responsibilities listed for the LWCD. Farrey stated that this should be removed from the Natural Resources Committee and included in the Land Conservation Committee. Farrey said that this would have to be corrected as an amendment by the County Board.

Business Items:

Review and Approve the LWCD Spirit Fund Program Policy Plan and the Associated Resolution

Director Casper informed the LCC of two minor additions to the LWCD Spirit Fund Program, Policy Plan. Casper stated that Chairman Farrey would like to include an Acknowledgements page for the LCC and LWCD individuals. Casper also explained to the LCC that bullet point #9 under the Summary & Guidelines should add the word "County" to clarify the County program funds are not to exceed 90% cost-sharing.

Following a brief discussion, a Horan/Nelson motion to amend the LWCD Spirit Fund Program Policy Plan to include an Acknowledgments page and have the Summary & Guidelines section change bullet point #9 to read: No combination of **County** program funds can exceed 90% cost-sharing passed 6-0 as amended. Following a brief discussion, a Horan/Bohn motion to approve the LWCD Spirit Fund Program, Policy Plan passed 6-0. A Bohn/Zellmer motion to approve the associated Resolution passed 6-0.

Casper said that this will now advance to the County Board meeting in September for final approval. The LCC again thanked the LWCD staff for all the work developing the Spirit Fund Program Policy Plan.

Review and Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department and Muddy Bottom Farmers

Director Casper reviewed with the LCC the one-year MOU between the LWCD and the Muddy Bottom Farmers. Casper explained that the LWCD is identified as the collaborator and the fiscal agent for the grant in 2024. Casper said that the LWCD would assist the Muddy Bottom Farmers with two field days, a winter workshop, and I & E materials. Casper explained that the MOU would be renewed each year along with potentially applying for additional DATCP Producer-Led grant funds. After a short discussion, a Horan/Zellmer motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department and Muddy Bottom Farmers passed 6-0.

Report on the Stabenow & Clarks Bay Corporation Off-Shore Breakwall Projects

Director Casper gave the LCC a report on the recent aquatic plant survey that was conducted at the Stabenow and Clarks Bay breakwall sites. Casper stated that there was an impressive aquatic plant response behind both breakwall projects. Casper said that these projects are improving water quality along with creating fisheries and wildlife habitat. The LCC suggested including some of the pictures as an LWCD project example for the County Board to see at the September meeting for approval of the LWCD Spirit Fund Program Policy Plan.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) - CSA 23-13, Jennifer & Heath Ruetten (Penny Fluor LLC) Rain Garden Project for \$500.00, CSA 23-14, James & Krista Luedtke Grassed Waterway Project for \$2,551.00 & CSA 23-15, Joseph Teigen Well Abandonment Project for \$500.00

Following a review of the CSAs, a Gordon/Nelson motion to approve \$500.00 for the Jennifer & Heath Ruetten (Penny Fluor LLC) Rain Garden Project, \$2,551.00 for the James & Krista Luedtke Grassed Waterway Project & \$500.00 for the Joseph Teigen Well Abandonment Project passed 6-0

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Horan/Stokes motion made to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. passed 6-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder