

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of December 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 9:03 a.m.

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

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Andy Maracini

Others present: Olivia Hoffman, Glacierland RC&D, 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 October 5, 2023, LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Horan/Gordon motion to approve the minutes passed 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Supervisor Horan commented that the election signatures are due by the end of the year for those that plan to run for County Board in 2024. Horan expressed that she hopes that the County Board maintains balanced views to ensure that there is valuable input from both sides ultimately resulting in better policy.

Agency Reports:

- Olivia Hoffman, Glacierland RC&D informed the LCC that a grant was awarded to work in a 10-county area (including Winnebago County) to address dead ash trees in wetlands infected with the emerald ash borer and the control of phragmites. Hoffman also stated that she took a new position with the NRCS and will not be working for Glacierland RC&D anymore.
- Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS informed the LCC that CSP renewal contracts are being completed and they are accepting applications for 2024 through February. Szulczewski also stated that EQIP signup ended November 4th and that they received over 100 applications in Winnebago & Outagamie counties. Szulczewski also shared the sad news that Ty Larsen, State Conservationist unexpectedly passed away in October and it is a huge loss for conservation in the state.

Director's Report:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that a WNDR grant proposal was submitted by the City of Neenah for Phase 1 of comprehensive lake management planning for Little Lake Butte des Morts. Casper informed the LCC that the LWCD committed support if the grant is awarded by offering staff time to conduct a shoreline erosion inventory.
- Director Casper informed the LCC we are working with landowners on "after the fact" LWMO permits to get them in compliance. Casper stated that we are sending a reminder letter every year from the LWCD to all the towns reminding them about the LWMO and when permits are needed. Casper said that we have had a couple upset landowners and were questioned on charging a fee for a livestock facility that has existed for over two years. Casper is working with Corporation Council to get clarification on this.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Leichtfuss manure pit abandonment will be starting next week and this will get them in compliance with the LWMO.

- Director Casper informed the LCC that we were awarded a DATCP producer-led grant for 2024 and a Winter Workshop is being planned in February.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the multi-year subaward for the Climate Smart Grant is being reviewed by Corporation Council. Casper said once the subaward is signed, he will start advertising to fill the Grant Soil Health Specialist position.
- Director Casper told the LCC that the Upper Fox/Wolf Demonstration Farm agreement with Waupaca County is expiring and we are planning to enter into a multi-year agreement in 2024. Casper said that this will advance through the LCC and County Board in January.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- No report

Business Items:

Review and Approve the 2024 LCC Meeting

Director Casper requested to change the March 7, 2024 LCC meeting to March 14, 2024 because it conflicts with the Annual WLWCA Conference. Casper also informed the LCC that the July 4, 2024 meeting would need to be rescheduled because it conflicts with it being holiday and suggested changing it to July 11, 2024. Following a brief review of the 2024 LCC Meeting Schedule, a Nelson/Horan motion to approve the LCC schedule as amended passed 7-0.

Discuss and Approve the LWCD's continued participation in the Statewide Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program

Director Casper reviewed the MDV funds based on the municipal wastewater treatment facilities participating in the program. Casper informed the LCC that for the small amount of available funds, it requires a fair amount of administrative time to fulfill the WDNR requirements for the program. Casper is not anticipating the LWCD participating in the MDV Program in 2024, but wanted to get approval in case a worthwhile project develops before the end of the year. A Gordon/Horan motion to approve participation in the MDV Program passed 7-0.

Approve Authorization for Chad Casper to Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (WCWQIP) & Spirit Fund Program (SFP) cost-share agreements exceeding \$5,000 for the remainder of 2023

Director Casper explained that this was necessary to allow for the full execution of CSAs for the remainder of 2023. Casper stated that completed CSAs are required to secure the 2023 funding for the projects and make them eligible to be carried over into the 2024 LWCD budget. Following a brief discussion, a Gordon/Zellmer motion to approve the authorization passed 7-0.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Status and Update

Andy Maracini, GIS Specialist gave the LCC a detailed report on the MS4 Permit and informed them that the WDNR will be issuing a new MS4 Permit in the spring of 2024. Maracini stated that this permit is renewed every five years. Maracini told the LCC he submitted an updated stormwater plan that addresses the Lower & Upper Fox TMDLs. Maracini also explained that updated stormwater modeling needs to be completed and a WDNR Urban Runoff Grant was awarded to cover 50% of the cost for Westwood Associates to complete the remodel in 2024. Maracini also reviewed the culvert inventory that is being worked on throughout the county. After a lengthy discussion, the LCC thanked Maracini for the update.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – CSA, 23-16, Michael Gross Well Abandonment Project for \$211.95 & CSA, 23-17, Kendra Drews Well Abandonment Project for \$434.77

Following a review of the CSAs, a Gordon/Zellmer motion to approve \$211.95 for the Michael Gross Well Abandonment Project & \$434.77 for the Kendra Drews Well Abandonment Project passed 7-0

Review and Approve LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – CSA, SFP-BMP-23-02, Robin Frantza Rain Garden Project for \$405.00, CSA, SFP-BMP-23-03, Albright Brothers Agricultural Sediment Basin Project for \$3,207.80 & SFP-SH-23-01, Richard R. Grundy Cover Crops & No-till practices for \$28,200.00
Following a review of the CSAs, a Gordon/Nelson motion to approve \$405.00 for the Robin Frantza Rain Garden Project, \$3,207.80 for the Albright Brothers Agricultural Sediment Basin Project & \$28,200.00 for the Richard R. Grundy Cover Crops & No-till practices passed 7-0

Review the LWCD Project List

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

Judge the 2024 WLWCA Poster Contest Posters

The LCC members judged the 2024 posters.

A Nelson/Bohn motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m. passed 7-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder