

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2021 LCC Monthly Meeting

Meeting Room A, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Snider at 9:01 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn, Julie Gordon, Ben Joas, Karen Powers, Tom Snider & Roger Zentner

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Haley Lucas

Others present: Merrie Schamberger & Levi Schultz, NRCS

Absent: Chairman Farrey, excused

Confirm Meeting/Agenda has been Properly Public Noticed in Accordance with County Policy:

Vice-Chairman Snider confirmed with Director Casper that the meeting had been properly public noticed.

Approve May 6, 2021 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Joas/Gordon motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Announcements:

- Director Casper let the LCC know that we partnered with the Heckrodt Wetland Reserve and the Menasha School District on an educational rain garden.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that our department has developed Sawyer Creek watershed drainage area maps to identify some potential stormwater retention areas in the basin. These maps along with the previous floodplain study in the Sawyer Creek watershed, will be discussed at a meeting in July with the City of Oshkosh, Exec. Doemel, Planning and Zoning Dept. and our department.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee voted to increase county conservation staffing by \$2,065,900 in 2021-22, and by \$2,315,900 in 2022-23. This increase in staffing for our department is estimated to be an additional \$17,212 for a total of \$178,912 in 2022.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the Exec. Doemel is requesting to standardize the memos for County committee meetings to include a description for agenda items.
- Director Casper let the LCC know the CREP soil rental rates have increased.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that Winnebago County currently has five perpetual CREP agreements totaling 81 acres that require monitoring. We have been working with DATCP to get training on what is required from our department to complete this monitoring.

Chairman's Report:

- No report

Business Items:

Discussion on the pros and cons of industrial hemp as a conservation practice

Director Casper explained the interest from Exec. Doemel in promoting industrial hemp in Winnebago County. Haley Lucas gave a presentation to the LCC explaining all of the pros and cons of hemp and the diverse values it provides. After a lengthy discussion, the LCC thanked Lucas for giving the presentation and providing all the information.

Review the Waupaca County and Winnebago County Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network Agreement

Director Casper gave the LCC an overview of the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network and the Agreement between Waupaca County and Winnebago County.

Report on the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network

Director Casper explained some of the issues with the new Demo Farm interseeder that was made for planting cover crops and explained they are working on modifications to address the problems. The final version of the Upper Fox-Wolf Demo Farm promotional video was shown to the LCC.

Discuss the cost share rates of soil health practices for LWCD grant proposals

Director Casper continued the discussion with the LCC on the proposed cost share rates for promoting soil health practices in the Town of Dale-Rat River Watershed. Casper explained the we checked on the most current costs for low disturbance manure application and the rates identified in the Great Lakes Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program Grant are accurate. The proposed cost-share rates will be brought back to the LCC for approval if the grant is awarded in October.

Review the Draft 2022 LWCD Budget

Director Casper reviewed the 2022 budget with the LCC, calling out any significant changes or new funds. Casper explained that in the budget was the new position request and truck replacement that resulted in the LWCD being over its levy target. The LCC was in support of the LWCD budget and the new requests.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSA) to provide funding for eligible projects

Following a review of the CSA summary a Gordon/Bohn motion to approve \$309.53 for Shelley Schafer Well Abandonment project passed 6-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Powers/Zentner motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m. passed 6-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder