

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2021 LCC Monthly Meeting

Meeting Room A, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:00 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn (arrived 9:20 a.m.), Chuck Farrey, Julie Gordon, Ben Joas, Karen Powers, Tom Snider (excused 9:25 a.m.) & Roger Zentner

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Sheila Smith

Others present: Chip Lovell & Maddy Pfaff, USDA -WS

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 July 1, 2021 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Gordon/Snider 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 the proposed Wildlife Damage Program legislation was referred to the respective Senate and Assembly Committees back in February, but neither Committee has scheduled a hearing on the Bill. Chip Lovell and the new Wildlife Specialist, Maddy Pfaff from USDA-WS introduced themselves to the LCC.
- Director Casper mentioned to the LCC that we are partnering again with the SW Rotary Club on cost-sharing several rain gardens with homeowners.
- Director Casper explained to the LCC that he had \$278,912 in the budget for DATCP staffing and cost-share allocations in 2022. The preliminary 2022 DATCP Allocation Plan was just released and Winnebago County LWCD is allocated to now get \$288,912 due to a \$10,000 increase in bond and SEG cost-sharing. Casper will explain this at the budget meeting on August 10th and propose to make this budget change.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that our department was selected to be the cover for the 2022 Winnebago County Budget Book.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that Jay Page is not going to participate in the Soil Health Challenge Program and wants to void his contract. We are actively looking for 1-2 other farmers to sign up for the program.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that we received a complaint from Gloria Marsh in the Town of Neenah regarding horse manure runoff from her neighbor Luke & Katie Brucks. We are working with Brucks on issuing a LWMO Permit/Variance and requiring them to move their manure stack at least 300 ft. from surface water and establish a minimum of 100-135 ft. well vegetated buffer to address runoff concerns. Casper said that if this doesn't address the issue, we may require a wider vegetated buffer in the future.

Chairman's Report:

- No report

Business Items:

Report on the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) for Phosphorus Program

Director Casper informed the LCC that we requested a one-year extension for the 2019 MDV funds and that these funds need to be spent by 5/1/22. Casper went on to explain that we currently have approximately \$76,000 in 2019-2021 MDV funds. There is roughly \$62,000 available for cost-sharing best management practices and the remaining \$14,000 is LWCD staff time that is being brought into the 2022 budget as revenue. In order to allocate these funds, Casper explained that we sent out over 100 letters in 2021 to farmers that were identified as having erosion based on EVAAL modeling and review of aerial photos. We received 14 replies from the letters and several other calls from outreach done in 2020 that resulted 9 confirmed projects. Preliminary 2022 MDV funding estimates for Winnebago County are \$13,300 primarily from the Stockbridge & Green Lake Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Casper said that we will be meeting with the City of Oshkosh to discuss their potential participation in the MDV Program the end of August.

Discuss the process for amending a CREP Perpetual Easement Conservation Plan

Director Casper gave the LCC an overview of the process for amending a CREP perpetual easement conservation plan. If there are any changes from the original conservation plan, an amendment must be completed by the LWCD and agreed upon by all CREP partners (LWCD, DATCP, NRCS). Casper went on to explain that the LCC would need to review and approve the amended conservation plan and it would then be sent to DATCP for final approval.

Discuss the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Grant and the proposed LWCD Program Requirements

Director Casper & Sheila Smith reviewed the proposed Great Lakes Sediment & Reduction Program Grant and the LWCD proposed requirements for promoting soil health practices in the Town of Dale-Rat River Watershed. Casper explained that we were awarded the grant and are looking to sign up 2-4 farms into the program and will be contacting three farmers in the watershed to see if they are interested. Smith gave the LCC an overview of the proposed program, cover crop and documentation requirements. Casper let the LCC know that the original proposed cost-share rates are being discussed by the grant people because of the funding coming from the NRCS. Once the rates are confirmed, Casper will bring them back to the LCC to discuss and approve.

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 Zentner/Powers motion to approve \$477.00 for the Kipp Rumlow Well Abandonment project, \$1,592.50 for the Nick Zimmerman Shoreline Restoration for Developed Areas project and \$500.00 for the Kirsten Buckstaff Rain Garden Project passed 6-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Bohn/Powers motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. passed 6-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder