

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2024 LCC Monthly Meeting
Meeting Room A, James P. Coughlin Center
& Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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

Present: LCC Members: Chuck Farrey, Kay Horan, Doug Nelson, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Sheila Smith

Others present: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS & Kurt Sadowska

Absent: Bruce Bohn & Julie Gordon

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 December 7, 2023, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Horan/Stokes motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Agency Reports: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS informed the LCC that they are checking planted cover crops and making payments on those acres. Szulczewski said that there are approximately 100 EQIP applications that are currently being ranked. Szulczewski also stated that the deadline to apply for the CSP is February 9th and currently they have received 10 applications in Winnebago County.

Director's Report:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Lake Winnebago Land & Water Conservation Association Planning meeting is scheduled on January 19, 2024.
- Director Casper explained again to the LCC that a livestock owner was questioning our department on getting charged a fee for a livestock facility that has existed for over two years. Casper worked with the Corporation Counsel office to get clarification. Casper stated that Corp Counsel's legal opinion is that it is a permit fee that can legally be charged to a landowner for obtaining a Livestock Waste Management Permit.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Leichtfuss manure pit abandonment construction is underway. Casper said that once this project is completed, it will get them in compliance with the LWMO.
- Director Casper told the LCC that the Upper Fox/Wolf Demonstration Farm agreement with Waupaca County has expired and we are planning to enter into a multi-year agreement in 2024. Casper said he is waiting for the agreement from Waupaca County and anticipates that this will advance through the LCC and County Board in February.
- Director Casper said that future LCC Meetings will be held at the J.P. Coughlin Center in Room A from December - March and Room D from April – November. Casper said that meeting in the larger Room A during those months will help reduce the chances of people getting sick during the cold/flu season.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey said that he had a conversation with Wilde Farms and explained that they purchased a strip-till machine and are switching from using fertilizers to biologicals. Farrey said that he feels that this change would be beneficial to the environment and would like the LWCD to learn more about biologicals and report back to the LCC on the findings.

Business Items:

Discuss the Climate Smart Agronomy Subaward Agreement between Winnebago County LWCD and Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance

Director Casper gave the LCC a presentation on the Climate Smart Commodities Grant and the multi-year subaward with Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA). Casper said that eight counties are partnering with FWWA on the implementation of the grant. Casper explained that there is funding for a 3-year soil health position, which the LWCD will be recruiting for soon. Casper also said that there are farmer incentives for cover crops, no-till, low disturbance manure application and farm progress reports. Casper stated that this grant will complement the other LWCD programs and ultimately help to get more conservation practices on the land.

Review and Approve the Payment of the 2024 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Annual Dues (\$2,074.00)

Director Casper stated that the actual 2024 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Annual Dues are \$2,108.00. Casper explained that the 2024 dues were slightly higher from the previous year and discussed the value of being a member of this Association. Following a brief discussion, a Horan/Zellmer motion to approve paying the 2024 dues passed 5-0.

Update on the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program

Sheila Smith, Agronomist gave the LCC an update on the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP). Smith said that Winnebago County has one Demo Farmer, Jamie Albright, and three Producer-Led farmers, Jim Luedtke, Brian Krenke, and Dan Rieckmann who have approached the LWCD for assistance with a NOPP grant. Smith stated that the NOPP is a DATCP grant for farmers to allow them to do nitrogen use efficiency research on their own land, in an effort to be closer to field scale. Smith said that one of the main concerns with nitrogen is how climate change will affect its mineralization. The LCC thanked Smith for the update.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – CSA, 23-18, Richard Grundy Soil Health Challenge for \$11,400.00, CSA, 23-19, Kelm Properties Fond du Lac LLC Shoreline Protection Project for \$5,185.77, CSA, 23-20, Peter and Dionne Kelm Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas Project for \$916.30, CSA, 23-21, Bohn Farms Inc. Animal Waste Storage System Abandonment Project for \$20,000.00, CSA, 23-22, Kurt & Shannon Sadowska Wetland Restoration Project for \$4,723.88, CSA, 23-23, Paul Delcore Shoreline Protection Project for \$8,395.80, CSA, 24-01, Gary and Elaine Coll Grassed Waterways & Stream Crossing Project for \$4,628.80 & CSA, 24-02, Jeffrey Mueller Agricultural Sediment Basin Project for \$4,700.00

Following a review of the CSAs, a Nelson/Zellmer motion to approve \$11,400.00 for the Richard Grundy Soil Health Challenge Project, \$5,185.77 for the Kelm Properties Fond du Lac LLC Shoreline Protection Project, \$916.30 for the Peter and Dionne Kelm Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas Project, \$20,000.00 for the Bohn Farms Inc. Animal Waste Storage System Abandonment Project, \$4,723.88 for the Kurt & Shannon Sadowska Wetland Restoration Project, \$8,395.80 for the Paul Delcore Shoreline Protection Project, \$4,628.80 for the Gary and Elaine Coll Grassed Waterways & Stream Crossing Project & \$4,700.00 for the Jeffrey Mueller Agricultural Sediment Basin Project passed 5-0

Review and Approve LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – CSA, SFP-BMP-23-04, Kurt & Shannon Sadowska Wetland Restoration Project for \$1,889.55, CSA, SFP-BMP-23-05 Kelm Properties Fond du Lac LLC Shoreline Protection Project for \$1,481.65, CSA, SFP-BMP-23-06 Peter and Dionne Kelm Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas Project for \$261.80, CSA, SFP-BMP-23-07, Paul Delcore Shoreline Protection Project for \$2,398.80, CSA, SFP-BMP-23-08, Melvin & Lois Selle Grassed Waterways Project for \$2,376.00 & CSA, SFP-BMP-23-09, Ronald Schettle Well Abandonment Project for \$450.00

Following a review of the CSAs, a Nelson/Stokes motion to approve \$1,889.55 for the Kurt & Shannon Sadowska Wetland Restoration Project, \$1,481.65 for the Kelm Properties Fond du Lac LLC Shoreline Protection Project, \$261.80 for the Peter and Dionne Kelm Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas Project, \$2,398.80 for the Paul Delcore Shoreline Protection Project, \$2,376.00 for the Melvin & Lois Selle Grassed Waterways Project & \$450.00 for Ronald Schettle Well Abandonment Project passed 5-0

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Nelson/Stokes motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m. passed 5-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder