

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)  
Meeting Minutes of February 1, 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 9:00 a.m.

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

**LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper

Others present: Levi Schultz, NRCS & David Terrall & Rebeca Bravo, USDA Wildlife Services

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 January 4, 2024, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Nelson/Stokes motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Agency Reports: Levi Schultz, NRCS said that the EQIP enrollments are currently underway and the CSP sign-up deadline is February 7, 2024.

Director's Report:

- Director Casper explained to the LCC that a livestock owner in the county was still questioning our department's decision on charging an "after the fact" livestock waste management fee for a livestock facility. Casper said that the Corporation Counsel office sent a letter to the landowner stating the Chapter 13 violation and the options for the livestock owner to resolve it. Casper stated that the landowner can pay the "after the fact" permit fee or file a written appeal to the LCC. Casper said that he had a lengthy discussion on January 19<sup>th</sup> with the landowner and tried to resolve the issue. Casper said that the landowner stated that they will be filing a written appeal to the LCC and has 30 days to file the appeal and a hearing would be scheduled with the LCC within 60 days of the date of the appeal. Casper told the LCC that he would keep them all informed on the issue.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that a Winnebago Waterways Farmer Roundtable is planned on February 15, 2024 at Masticola's on Broadway in Berlin.
- Director Casper told the LCC that the USDA Climate Smart Grant is beginning to advance. Casper said that he is currently advertising for the Grant Soil Health Specialist position and will be doing interviews in mid-February.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey requested that the LWCD give a report at the March LCC meeting regarding the use of biologicals on farms.
- Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that Sawyer County Resolution that came to the Legislative Committee on January 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding enhanced boat wake regulations was referred back to the LCC. Farrey said that he would put this on the agenda for the March LCC meeting. Supervisor Nelson expressed his concerns on the severe damage that wake boats do to the lake bottom and shoreline and that it could set back some of the conservation efforts with the LWCD and LCC within the county.

Business Items:

Review and Approve 2023 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims

David Terrall, USDA Wildlife Services reviewed the 2023 claims with the LCC. A Nelson/Zellmer motion was made to approve the James Fischer claim payment, including the shooting harvest waiver for \$5,042.52 passed 6-0. A Gordon/Stokes motion was made to approve the Jeff Posselt claim payment for \$2,585.70 passed 6-0. A Nelson/Horan motion was made to approve the Robert Walter claim payment for \$8,177.07 passed 6-0.

Review the Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department

Director Casper explained to the LCC that the LWCD and NRCS believe that working together in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will provide technical and financial assistance to farmers and other entities to voluntarily protect, restore, and enhance the productivity of agricultural lands. Casper also stated that the MOA would allow access to the cost-share files to ensure that the LWCD isn't signing up a producer for similar practices as the NRCS at the same time. The LCC was supportive of the MOA between NRCS and the LWCD.

Report on the Eric VanDyke Off-shore Breakwater

Director Casper gave the LCC an update on the Eric VanDyke off-shore breakwall project and said that this site is losing 5 ft. of wetland shoreline per year due to wind, wave and ice forces. Casper said that the proposed 2,545 ft. of breakwalls would protect the remaining 3,415 of wetland shoreline from further erosion and create an additional 41 acres of new wetland habitat. Casper discussed the funding already secured and additional potential funding sources. Casper said that he would keep exploring funding options and is planning to hopefully secure funds for construction in the winter of 2025.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Gordon/Horan motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m. passed 6-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder