

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2024 LCC Monthly Meeting
Meeting Room B, James P. Coughlin Center
& Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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

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

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Emily Dufeck, Sheila Smith and Eric Bertram

Others present: Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, Karen Frederick, Court Reporter, Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant, Matt Olson, Town of Winchester Chairman, Lynn Szulczewski & Levi Schultz, NRCS, David and Michelle Stone & Spencer Stokes

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.

Conducted the Hearing on the David and Michelle Stone, 8409 Meyer Lane Larsen, WI 54947 - Livestock Waste Management Ordinance Appeal: A Zellmer/Horan motion to deny the David and Michelle Stone request to waive the \$300 after-the-fact permit application passed 3-2. See attached Decision.

Approve February 1, 2024, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Zellmer/Stokes motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Agency Reports: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS gave an update on the EQIP program and the approaching deadlines.

Director's Report:

- Director Casper told the LCC that the Grant Soil Health Specialist position was recently filled by Eric Bertram. Casper explained the role of the position and introduced Bertram to the LCC.
- Director Casper told the LCC that we assisted the Muddy Bottom Farmer PLG, Jim Luedtke and Upper Fox-Wolf Demo Farmer, Jamie Albright on applying for a Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) grant. Casper said that this DATCP grant is available to get field size data on nitrogen use and to find the optimum rate on different soil types with different variables like manure and cover crops. Casper said that we should find out this month if the grants are awarded.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Winnebago County Land and Water Resource Management Plan is coming due for the 5-year revision and will be presented to the State Land and Water Conservation Board in 2025.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the 2023 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) reimbursement was completed. Casper stated that unfortunately the Deer Donation Program was not able to reimburse Beck's Meat Processing for all the deer they processed due to some not being tested for CWD. Casper said that 18 of 28 deer that were processed are eligible to be reimbursed. Casper said this could cause an issue for Beck's Meat Processing wanting to participate in the Deer Donation Program in future years. The LCC discussed potentially exploring options to get Beck's Meat Processing reimbursed for the remaining 10 deer, assuming they would continue to be the processor for Winnebago County. Casper said that he would explore options and reach out to Beck's Meat.
- Director Casper reminded the LCC that the next meeting will be held in Meeting Room D.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that there is a DATCP Partners meeting scheduled on April 15th at the J.P. Coughlin Center.

Business Items:

Report on the use of biologicals in croplands

Sheila Smith gave the LCC a presentation, "Healthy Soils Grow Healthy Plants". Smith covered biological agricultural products and the many types available. Smith explained that biological products are derived from living organisms or natural materials. Smith said that they are used to enhance crop growth, improve soil fertility, manage pests and diseases, and promote sustainable farming practices. The LCC thanked Smith for her informative presentation.

Review the Budget Transfer for the Salary Contingency Adjustment

Director Casper gave the LCC an overview of the budget transfer that the Finance Department completed to present to committees, Personnel & Finance, and County Board for the salary contingency transfer. Casper said that transfer for the LWCD is under \$40,000, so no committee or Board approval is required.

Action Item - Authorize a Three-Year Agreement Between Waupaca County and Winnebago County for Participation in the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network and the Associated Resolution

Director Casper reviewed the agreement and explained that the 25% match required by the counties will be accomplished by in-kind time, field day expenses and soil testing. Casper said that after the 3-year agreement expires, the plan is to renew the agreement annually. Following a brief discussion, a Horan/Stokes motion to authorize the Three-Year Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Agreement passed 5-0.

Action Item - Sawyer County Resolution 2023-27 – "Resolution on Enhanced Wake Regulations"

Supervisor Nelson informed the LCC that his research has shown that science and a majority of those opposed to enhanced wake, support banning it in 20 ft. or less for water depth and a minimum of 500 ft. from the shoreline. Nelson understands that this would ban enhanced wake in most of the Winnebago System and thought a resolution could be drafted specifically for Winnebago County. Chairman Farrey suggested one option would be to approve the Sawyer County resolution and refer it back to the Legislative Committee. Ethan Hollenberger stated that there are two options: create an ordinance for enhanced wake or approve the Sawyer County resolution and oppose the preemption. After a lengthy discussion, a Nelson/Stokes motion to approve the Sawyer County Resolution and refer it back to the Legislative Committee passed 5-0.

Action Item - Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – CSA, 24-03, Matthew & Luke Hoppe/Jeffrey & Jean Hoppe Shoreline Restoration for Developed Areas Project for \$1,999.90

Following a review of the CSAs, a Horan/Zellmer motion to approve \$1,999.90 for the Matthew & Luke Hoppe/Jeffrey & Jean Hoppe Shoreline Restoration for Developed Areas Project passed 5-0

Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – CSA, SFP-BMP-24-01, Katherine Reed Rain Garden Project for \$628.20 & CSA, SFP-BMP-24-02, Matthew & Luke Hoppe/Jeffrey & Jean Hoppe Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas Project for \$571.40, SFP-SH-24-01, Lydell Pethke Cover Crops & No-Till Practices for \$13,705.20, SFP-SH-24-02, Lydell Pethke/Catherine Davey Cover Crops & No-Till Practices for \$2,224.98, SFP-SH-24-03 and Lydell Pethke/Melvin Selle Cover Crops & No-Till Practices for \$12,269.82

Following a review of the CSAs, a Horan/Nelson motion to approve \$628.20 for the Katherine Reed Rain Garden Project, \$571.40 for the Matthew & Luke Hoppe/Jeffrey & Jean Hoppe Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas Project, \$13,705.20 for the Lydell Pethke Cover Crops & No-Till Practices, \$2,224.98 for the

Lydell Pethke/Catherine Davey Cover Crops & No-Till Practices & \$12,269.82 for the Lydell Pethke/Melvin Selle Cover Crops & No-Till Practices passed 5-0

Review the LWCD Project Lists

Director Casper informed the LCC that he is now including soft practices as part of the LWCD project lists moving forward. The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

A Nelson/Stokes motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. passed 5-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder