

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2023 LCC Monthly Meeting
Meeting Room A, James P. Coughlin Center
& Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:02 a.m.

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

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Jody Bezio

Others present: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS

Absent:

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 March 9, 2023 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Horan/Nelson motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Announcements:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that the 2023 Tree Day is planned for April 11th. Casper also let the LCC know that an article was published in the Oshkosh Herald regarding the Tree Program along with information on the shoreline restoration work the LWCD does.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the 2022 LWCD Annual Report is complete and had hard copies available for anyone that was interested.
- Director Casper explained to the LCC that outreach will be done this spring with landowners in the highest loading HUC12 in the Fox River watershed to allocate the remaining MDV funds we have available.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Upper Fox/Wolf Demo Farm Network contract will be expiring the end of September in 2023. Casper stated that NRCS and the counties will be looking to renew the contract and counties will be responsible for in-kind match that may include staff time and cost of holding field days.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the 2022 DATCP Annual Report, 2023 LWCD Annual Workplan and the 2024 Joint Grant Application were recently submitted.
- Director Casper made the LCC aware of the advancement of a potential producer-led group in the Rat River Watershed. Casper said that he would keep the LCC informed of our role with the group moving forward.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Winnebago Waterways Program Agreement was approved on March 29th by the Winnebago Waterways Executive Committee. Casper stated that this agreement is valid from 2024-2027 and will keep all the good momentum moving in the Winnebago Waterways Recovery Area.
- Director Casper introduced Jody Bezio, Administrative Associate to the LCC and stated that she will be a great addition to the LWCD team.
- Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS gave the LCC a detailed report on many of the programs their agency has to offer. Szulczewski discussed the EQIP Program deadline being 5/19/23 along with the Conservation Stewardship Program, Inflation Reduction Act and the Conservation Reserve Program.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey let the LCC know some sad news that Supervisor Mike Norton has passed away. Farrey asked that everyone keep Norton's friends and family in their thoughts and prayers.

Business Items:

Discussion on Developing a LWCD Policy Plan for the Allocation of Spirit Funds in the Amount of \$3,030,300 for Water Quality Improvement Initiatives in the County

Chairman Farrey gave the LCC an overview of the process for developing and approving the LWCD Policy Plan for allocating the approved Spirit Funds. Farrey went on to explain that sections of the Policy Plan will be reviewed by the LCC over the next few months with the final Policy Plan being approved in late summer or early fall of 2023 by the LCC and possibly County Board. Director Casper stated that he could develop a Policy Plan proposal for the May LCC meeting in regards to suggesting cost-share rates along with some cost-share maximum caps for structural BMPs. Farrey and the LCC agreed that this would be a good approach to start the process. Casper said that there are several new conservation programs that would also be proposed in the Policy Plan and that these could be brought forward to the LCC at a later date.

Review and Approve the Resolution to Urge the Wisconsin Legislature to Provide \$18.7 million in stable, core funding support for county conservation department staffing

Director Casper explained to the LCC that if the \$18.7 million were approved, these funds would cover the LWCDs highest paid position at 100%, second highest at 70% and all remaining positions at 50%. Casper stated that DATCPs current staffing allocation to the LWCD is approximately \$185k that funds about 1.5 positions in the LWCD. Following a brief discussion, a Horan/Stokes motion to approve the resolution passed 5-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Nelson/Horan motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. passed 5-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder