

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)  
Meeting Minutes of June 1, 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 9:01 a.m.

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

**LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Emily Dufeck & Sheila Smith

Others present: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS, Olivia Hoffman, Glacierland RC&D

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 May 4, 2023 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Horan/Stokes motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Agency Reports: Lynn Szulczewski, NRCS explained that their agency received ten applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and currently there are three approved. Szulczewski also stated that twelve Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications were received and they will be ranked in middle of June. Szulczewski said that three of the applications were for rotational grazing practices and she shared an example of a rotational grazing plan.

Announcements:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that monitoring elevations are being completed by the LWCD to document any potential settling of the Poygan breakwall. Casper stated that this is a requirement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before the next phase of the project can begin.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Climate Smart USDA grant agreement should finally be in place by mid-summer. Casper said that because of this delay, the plan is to start implementation of the grant in 2024.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) voted 11-4 along party lines to approve \$10,962,300 for county conservation staffing in 2024, and \$11,214,200 in 2025. Casper said that current 2023 funding levels are \$11,280,000 and this would constitute a funding decrease. Casper said that the Committee's intention was not to approve a funding decrease, but rather, to maintain funding at the current level of \$11,280,000 for both years of the 2024-25 biennium via one-time funding increases. Casper stated that they are looking to rectify the situation in order to maintain the current level of funding.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the State budget request to add two WDNR positions to increase staffing for Lake Winnebago local lake protection and restoration efforts was pulled from the budget by the JFC.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey informed Supervisor Gordon that she does need to be present in order to have her vote count during LCC meetings. Farrey stated that the Winnebago County 2022-2023 Official Directory is outdated and it did not reflect this new change.

Business Items:

Review the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network Agreement between NRCS and Waupaca County  
Director Casper gave the LCC an overview of the draft Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network Agreement between NRCS and Waupaca County. Casper stated that the existing agreement will expire on September 30, 2023 and this would renew the agreement for continuing the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network for another five years. Casper said that a sub-contract agreement between Winnebago County and Waupaca County would need approval in the near future.

Review the Contents of the LWCD Spirit Fund Policy Plan, Soil Health Program  
Sheila Smith gave the LCC a detailed overview of the proposed LWCD Spirit Fund Policy Plan, Soil Health Program. Smith explained that the Soil Health Program would provide cost-sharing for no-till, cover crops and a number of add-on soil health practices. Bruce Bohn expressed some concerns that there was not cost-sharing available through the program for cover crops alone. Smith stated that the funds are limited and our goal with the program is to use the funds for an overall soil health system. Lynn Szulcierski stated that NRCS could potentially provide cost-sharing for just cover crops alone. Chairman Farrey stated that he would like to have the proposed Soil Health Program brought back to the LCC for approval in July with the suggested changes made by the LCC.

Supervisor Gordon was excused at 10:00 a.m.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) - CSA 23-08, Michael Egbert Well Abandonment Project for \$500.00 & CSA 23-09, Jeremy Halfmann & Katelyn Vara Wetland Restoration & Grassed Waterway Project for \$7,186.52  
Following a review of the CSAs, a Horan/Stokes motion to approve \$500.00 for the Michael Egbert well abandonment project & \$7,186.52 for the Jeremy Halfmann & Katelyn Vara Wetland Restoration & Grassed Waterway Project passed 6-0

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 11:06 a.m. passed 6-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder