

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2022 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 9:00 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Julie Gordon, Karen Powers, Ben Joas, & Tom Snider

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper & Andy Maracini

Others present: Merrie Schamberger & Levi Schultz, NRCS

Absent: Roger Zentner

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 2, 2021 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Bohn/Joas motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Announcements:

- Director Casper let the LCC know that the position for the Watershed Specialist position is posted and the deadline to apply is January 7th.
- Director Casper explained to the LCC that the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers is looking to conduct a 729 Watershed Study on the Lower Fox and Upper Fox/Wolf watersheds. Casper said that this study could potentially help our efforts in funding and identifying priority sites for conservation work within the County.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the LWLWCA Meeting (Zoom) is planned for January 28th at 10:00 am. Casper also let the LCC know that virtual voting for the Area Poster Contest would be held on the same day.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that both contractors are starting to do prep work on the Samer's Bay/Terrell's Island breakwall project.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that three farmers have committed to signing up for soil health initiatives in the Rat River Watershed.

Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey requested input from the LCC for holding future LCC meetings virtually via Zoom or in person. The LCC recommended doing the hybrid in person/virtual meetings for the time being.

Business Items:

Review and Approve or Deny, the 2021 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims

Maddy Pfaff, USDA Wildlife Specialist reviewed the 2021 claims with the LCC. Following a brief discussion, a Snider/Bohn motion was made to approve the Robert Walter claim payment for \$5,042.28 and the James Fischer claim payment for \$5,740.17 passed 6-0.

Review and Approve the Payment of the 2022 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Annual Dues (\$2,029.00)

Chairman Farrey explained that the 2022 dues remained almost the same from the previous year and discussed the value of being a member of this Association. Following a brief discussion, a Powers/Gordon motion to approve paying the 2022 dues passed 6-0.

Review a Water Quality Improvement Program "Soil Health Challenge" Applicant

Director Casper informed the LCC that Todd Messerschmidt from the Town of Utica has applied to participate in the "Soil Health Challenge" Program. Casper gave an overview of the "Soil Health Challenge" and explained that the applicant was looking to enroll 20 acres into the Program.

Review and Approve an amendment to add an additional \$10,000 to the Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreement for the Allen & Valerie Stabenow's Off-Shore Breakwall Project

Director Casper let the LCC know that the Ducks Unlimited (NAWCA) funds for the Allen & Valerie Stabenow project have expired. Casper explained to the LCC that he is looking to amend the original Water Quality Improvement Program CSA to secure the shortfall. Following a brief discussion, a Gordon/Powers motion was made to approve the additional \$10,000 to the Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreement for the Allen & Valerie Stabenow's Off-Shore Breakwall Project passed 6-0.

Discussion on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and identifying potential projects

Director Casper gave the LCC an update on how some of the other LWCDs in the State are allocating their ARPA funds. Casper gave details on several other LWCDs using the funds to promote and cost-share harvestable buffers. Casper also went over an extensive list of other potential water quality improvement projects that may be eligible for ARPA funding. Chairman Farrey explained to the LCC that he would like to finalize the potential project list for the LWCD and come up with cost estimates. Farrey went on to say that he would like to take a resolution to the County Board in March to request ARPA funds for the LWCD to help support efforts in improving water quality within the County. Farrey and Casper will continue to gather information about the ARPA funds and communicate that with the LCC. Farrey requested that the project list be put on the next LCC meeting agenda for approval.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSA) to provide funding for eligible projects

Following a review of the CSA summary a Bohn/Powers motion to approve \$11,400.00 for the Todd Messerschmidt soil health challenge project, \$500.00 for the Christopher & Margaret Keller well abandonment project, \$2,341.70 for the Kenneth Kreiter waterway system & wetland restoration project, \$2,356.80 for the Moss Family Trust waterway system & wetland restoration project, \$24,944.50 for the Michael Pamer waterway system, barnyard runoff system & roof runoff system project and \$10,000.00 for the Allen & Valerie Stabenow shoreline protection project passed 6-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Powers/Joas motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m. passed 6-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder