

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of February 2, 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: Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant & 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 January 6, 2022 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Snider/Powers motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant gave the LCC an overview of the proposed Resolution on the 2/3/22 P & F Committee Agenda to Authorize the Creation of a Winnebago County ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission. Hollenberger explained that the ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission would receive ARPA requests for its recommendation before advancing to the County Board. Hollenberger also explained that the proposed Commission would consist of the County Executive, County Board Chairperson, four County Board Supervisors selected by the County Board Chairperson, and three members of the public selected by the County Executive and would be anticipated to start in April. Hollenberger also let the LCC know that there is support from the County Executive to provide some ARPA funding to the LWCD for conservation work in the county.

Announcements:

- Director Casper let the LCC know that the Watershed Specialist interviews are scheduled for February 8th.
- Director Casper reminded the LCC that a Farmer Roundtable is planned at the Fin N' Feather in Winneconne on February 16th and the deadline to sign up is February 4th.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that we are working with a landowner in the Town of Poygan who filled in an existing manure storage pit without a LWMO permit. Casper explained the landowner is working with our department to properly abandon the manure pit according to an approved manure system closure plan.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that construction is planning to start soon on the Samer's Bay/Terrell's Island & Stabenow breakwall projects.
- Director Casper let the LCC know \$138k of County funds and \$74k of State funds are being carried over into 2022.
- Director Casper asked the LCC to contact him to provide any input on casting votes for the State Land & Water Conservation Board nominees.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that FSA has made a change in policy where the FSA committee member cannot be recognized as being associated with FSA on the LLC Committees. There were discussions on just calling the FSA representative a farmer-at-large or citizen instead. WI Land+Water will be corresponding with DATCP and will be providing recommendations in the near future on how to handle this situation

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey said he truly appreciates the support of the County Exec., but is concerned if a commission is formed that we will not know when or how much ARPA funding the LWCD would be allocated. Farrey went on to give the LCC a detailed summary of what was being proposed with the Resolution supporting the appropriation of ARPA funds to the LWCD and explained the options of approving or tabling the Resolution.

Business Items:

Review and Approve the appropriation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by Winnebago County to the Land and Water Conservation Department in the amount of \$3,000,000 for funding water quality improvement work and the associated Resolution

The LCC had a discussion on the importance of funding water quality improvement projects in the county with the appropriation of ARPA funds. The LCC feels that use of the ARPA funds in the LWCD would support legacy and clean water initiatives. The LCC also felt that it is important to advance the Resolution regardless of the outcome. LCC members discussed how long it takes to do landowner outreach, design and construction of conservation projects and the LCC all agreed that approval of ARPA funds now would allow more time to get practices installed. Chairman Farrey appreciates an ARPA commission structure, but said the LCC is committed to promoting clean water initiatives in a timely matter. As proposed in the Resolution, Director Casper and Ethan Hollenberger explained how some of the funds are available from the lost revenue replacement allowable under ARPA for the County and it would provide more flexibility. A Bohn/Powers motion was made to approve the Resolution passed 6-0.

Review the Potential use of ARPA Funding in the LWCD

Director Casper gave the LCC an overview on the potential use of ARPA funds in the LWCD. Casper went on to explain that these are just estimates based on knowledge at the time and it was assumed on implementation over a ten-year timeframe. Casper also said that practice eligibility would need to be confirmed and the LCC would approve how ARPA funds would be allocated in the LWCD.

Tom Snider departed at 9:25 am

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

No CSAs to approve.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Bohn/Gordon motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 a.m. passed 5-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder