

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2021 LCC Monthly Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 1:30 p.m.

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

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper

Others present: Lauren Krause, USDA Farm Service Agency, Jessica Schultz, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, Levi Schultz, NRCS, John Fink, County Executive Assistant & Katie Campbell

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 January 7, 2021 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Gordon/Powers motion to approve the minutes passed 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Announcements:

- Director Casper informed the LCC that Claire Meier from Winneconne Elementary School took 1st place in the 2nd - 3rd grade division poster contest at the Regional level and will now advance to the State level.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that \$100 was paid for the LWLWCA dues.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the Larsen Drainage Board is planning to expand from three Board members to five Board members. This was discussed with Corporation Council and the new three Board members will be appointed by the Circuit Court.
- Director Casper announced that Roger Zentner was voted again as the Chairman of the FSA Committee and Zentner confirmed that he will continue as the FSA representative on the LCC.
- Director Casper reminded the LCC that the WLWCA Annual Meeting is being held on March 2-5 virtually.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that he nominated Dan Rudebeck for the Fox-Wolf Basin Watershed Hero Award for his lifelong dedication he made towards protecting the Winnebago System.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that we will be carrying over approximately \$265K of cost-share funds from 2020 into 2021 from the SWRM Program, County Water Quality Improvement Program and the MDV Program.

Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey gave a report on the Winnebago Waterways Executive Meeting that was held on January 25, 2021. There was a vote made that was not on the agenda to support the Winnebago Waterways Nine-Key Element Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water. Farrey explained that he abstained from the vote because he wanted to get the LCC's input and approval of the Plan before bringing it to the County Board.

Business Items:

Overview of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Lauren Krause, USDA Farm Service Agency gave an overview of the current Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to the LCC. Krause explained that the current CRP signup is from January 4th- February 12th. She went on to explain that CRP is a Federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers. Producers agree to plant sensitive cropland into native forbs, grasses and trees that result in improved water quality, reduced soil erosion and creation of wildlife habitat. The projects are ranked nationally by a point system and provide annual rental payments. After a good discussion, the LCC thanked Krause for the CRP overview.

Tom Snider departed at 1:53 pm

Review and Discuss the Winnebago Waters Program, Nine Key Element Watershed Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water Draft

Jessica Schultz, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance provided an overview of the draft Nine Key Element Plan, Healthy Land/Healthy Water to the LCC. Chairman Farrey asked if the financial need had to be part of the overall Plan. Schultz said that the financial portion does need to be included in the Plan for final approval. She went on to explain that this Plan shows the financial need to achieve the pollutant reduction goals in the 32 HUC 12 sub watersheds and that adoption of the Plan would not commit the County to provide any funding or an increase in staff. Director Casper expressed that he sees the Plan as a document that guides the LWCD conservation efforts and grant opportunities would be essential to provide funding for cost-sharing and potential additional staff. Following a lengthy discussion, Bruce Bohn asked to get the opinion of Corporation Council on the Plan. Chairman Farrey instructed Casper to get the opinion of Corporation Council and put the Plan on the March agenda for LCC approval.

Ben Joas departed at 2:52 pm

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 Gordon/Powers motion to approve \$6,650.00 for Jerome & Karen Kaszynski's shoreline protection project passed 5-0

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Powers/Gordon motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m. passed 5-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder