

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2022 LCC Monthly Meeting

Meeting Room B, 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 & Mike Haase

Others present: Aaliyah Nedd, NACo, Sarah Gimont, NACo, Dan Bahr, WCA, 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 February 2, 2022 LCC Meeting Minutes:

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

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

None

Announcements:

- Director Casper let the LCC know that the WPS Farm Show is being held on March 29-31. The LWCD will have a booth and are partnering with the Upper Fox/Wolf Demo Farm Network to promote soil health initiatives.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the Farmer Roundtable held at the Fin N' Feather in Winneconne on February 16th was well attended and a success.
- Director Casper asked the LCC if we can meet at 10:00 a.m. for the April 7th LCC meeting to allow time to go to the P & F meeting at 8:00 a.m. The LCC agreed to the time change.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the 2021 LWCD Annual Report is almost complete.
- Director Casper told the LCC that Emily Dufek was hired as the Watershed Specialist and is working just Fridays until she is done with college. She will be full-time starting May 16th.
- Director Casper explained to the LCC that AB 49/SB 63, which proposed transferring the administration of the wildlife habitat damage payment and abatement assistance programs from counties to the WDNR, had passed the Assembly, but the Senate Committee did not take up the bill so it did not pass.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that the LWCD has been receiving payments from wastewater treatment plants for the MDV Program. Casper said that the estimates that the WDNR gave us were not even close to what we are receiving. Casper will be discussing this with the WDNR to get some clarification.
- Director Casper acknowledged that Mike Haase, Conservation Technician will be retiring on April 1, 2022. Casper said that Haase worked for Calumet County LCD for 23 years and Winnebago County LWCD for over 10 years. Casper said all his knowledge will be missed and the LCC thanked him for his years of service.

Committee Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Farrey explained to the LCC that the request for the allocation of ARPA funds to the LWCD for conservation work did not advance to the County Board due to a technicality. Farrey apologized that this did not get approved and explained that every effort was made to advance the request. Farrey also informed the LCC that an ARPA Commission structure was approved by the County Board to provide direction in the near future on where the funds get allocated within the County.

Business Items:

Progress report/update on the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Permit

Andy Maracini provided a detailed report to the LCC on the County MS4 Permit. Maracini explained that we are anticipating applying for a planning grant in 2023 and scheduled to complete the update of MS4 modeling in 2024. Maracini also said that the MS4 permitted areas may change based on the 2020 census.

Discussion on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA's) new proposed rule on "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS)

Aaliyah Nedd, NACo gave the LCC an informative presentation on the proposed rule regarding the WOTUS. Nedd explained that NACo has concerns over the proposed rule and their priority is clarity for counties and having a durable definition of WOTUS so counties can do their jobs efficiently as public servants. Nedd said that NACo is looking for input from counties to better understand the impacts the proposed rule would have at the county level. Chairman Farrey expressed concerns with the proposed rule and plans to address it through the legislative process and the County Board. The LCC thanked Nedd for her time and presentation.

Review and Approve a 2022 Budget Transfer of \$4,599 from the MDV Deferred Revenue Account to the Land & Water Conservation Department Budget

Director Casper explained to the LCC that the budget transfer of the MDV funds is from the City of Fond du Lac Regional Wastewater Treatment Department and will be used to cost-share the installation of conservation practices that help farmers achieve compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards. Casper also stated that the revenue is already received, but is in a deferred revenue account and will be allocated when the expenses occur. A Snider/Gordon motion was made to approve the Budget Transfer passed 6-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Joas/Powers motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. passed 6-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder