

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)
Meeting Minutes of June 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, Kay Horan & Doug Zellmer

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper, Emily Dufeck, Sheila Smith & Andy Maracini

Others present: Korin Doering, FWWA & Howie Miller, Winnebago County Drainage Board

Absent: Doug Nelson & Dan Stokes

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 5, 2022 LCC Meeting Minutes:**

A Bohn/Horan motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

None

Announcements:

- Director Casper let the LCC know that the annual WLWCA dues will be increasing to \$2,074.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the Conservation Technician position vacancy was offered to an individual who tentatively is planning to start on June 20th.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that Bruce Bohn and Dan Stokes appointments were approved at the May 17th County Board meeting as LCC citizen members.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the 2023 budget process is beginning.
- Director Casper informed the LCC that there were 450 proposals nationwide for the Climate-Smart Commodities funding.
- Director Casper distributed a letter that will be sent out to all towns in the County in order to educate them on the Livestock Waste Management Ordinance and when permits are needed.

Committee Chairman's Report:

None

Business Items:

Update and Report on the Great Lakes Sediment Reduction Nutrient Program (GLSNRP) Grant and the Water Quality Improvement Program "Soil Health Challenge"

Sheila Smith gave an informative update on the LWCD "Soil Health Challenge" (SHC). Smith reminded the LCC that the SHC is a 6-year commitment by the producer to install cover crops and no-till. Smith said that the 6-year commitment gives enough time for the soil health benefits to be seen. Smith also said that field days are being planned to showcase the soil health practices and to let the farmers teach each other on the soil health initiatives. Emily Dufeck introduced herself to the LCC as the new Watershed Specialist in the LWCD. Dufeck went on to give a detailed report on the status of the GLSNRP soil health initiatives underway in the Rat River Watershed. Dufeck let the LCC know that three champion farmers are currently participating in the GLSNRP and interviews were recently done with them to ask what their expectations are with committing to the program. Dufeck also stated that letters were sent out to landowners in the watershed that were identified as having erosion problems that the LWCD could assist with. The LCC thanked Smith and Dufeck for the informative updates and report.

Update and Report on the Winnebago Waterways Program

Korin Doering gave a presentation to the LCC on all the efforts happening with the Winnebago Waterways Program. Doering gave the LCC some background information on the creation of the Winnebago Waterways Program and explained that we are currently in the implementation phase. Doering also reviewed how the annual funding support from Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties have leveraged millions of additional dollars for all the efforts. Following a detailed discussion Chairman Farrey suggested bringing a request to the Winnebago Waterways Executive Committee to propose an annual increase for the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance to help fund the Winnebago Waterways Program with their operational costs and overhead. Doering said that this could be discussed at the next Winnebago Waterways Steering Team meeting on June 3rd. The LCC thanked Doering for the detailed presentation.

Review the Waupaca County and Winnebago County Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network Agreement

Director Casper gave the LCC an overview of the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network and all the partners involved with the effort. Casper also reviewed the annual agreement with Waupaca County and informed the LCC that in the future the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network is planned to continue and a new long-term agreement would need approval from the LCC and County Board.

Discuss the LWCD Compressed Schedule for Extended Business Hours

Director Casper explained the approved compressed schedule to the LCC and said that the County Executive and the Human Resources Dept. are supportive of the change. Casper said that staff are working nine-hour days and are off one day each two-week pay period. Casper told the LCC that the office is open an extra hour each day for the public and there is no additional cost to the tax-payers. Casper said the County Executive was looking for ways to retain County employees and this is one option to hopefully help.

Julie Gordon was excused at 11:00 a.m.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share

Agreements (CSAs) - CSA 22-03, Nathaniel Frank Well Abandonment Project for \$500.00, CSA 22-04, Dennis & Susan Jones Waterway System & Wetland Restoration Project for \$5,549.60 & CSA 22-05, Karrie Hoks Well Abandonment Project for \$292.00

Following a review of the CSAs, a Bohn/Horan motion to approve \$500.00 for the Nathaniel Frank well abandonment project, \$5,549.60 for the Dennis & Susan Jones Waterway System & Wetland Restoration Project and \$292.00 for the Karrie Hoks well abandonment project passed 4-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

A Zellmer/Horan motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. passed 4-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder