

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2021 LCC Monthly Meeting

Meeting Room A, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:02 a.m.

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

LWCD Staff: Chad Casper & Andy Maracini

Others present: Levi Schultz, NRCS

Absent: Roger Zentner & Julie Gordon

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 November 5, 2021 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Joas/Snider motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Announcements:

- Director Casper let the LCC know that the position description for the Watershed Specialist position was sent to Human Resources for approval and it will be posted as soon as possible.
- Director Casper distributed a press release to the LCC that was sent out this week to several media sources regarding the Great Lakes Commission Grant for the soil health efforts in the Rat River Watershed.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the WPS Farm Show is being held on March 29-31 and we plan to have an educational booth at the event.
- Director Casper let the LCC know that Todd Messerschmidt from the Town of Utica is interested in signing up for the "Soil Health Challenge".
- Director Casper let the LCC know that the Ducks Unlimited (NAWCA) funds for the Allen & Valerie Stabenow project have expired. Casper said that he would be looking for LCC approval in January to amend the original Water Quality Improvement Program CSA to secure the shortfall.

Chairman's Report:

- No Report

Business Items:

Review and Approve the 2022 LCC Meeting Schedule

Following a brief review of the 2022 LCC Meeting Schedule, a Snider/Bohn motion to approve the schedule as presented passed 5-0

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

Andy Maracini provided a report to the LCC on the County MS4 Permit. Maracini explained that he did IDDE inspections this fall and did not find any issues. Maracini also explained that the County is scheduled for an update of the MS4 modeling in 2024 and the LWCD will plan on submitting a grant proposal in the future to help cover some of the cost.

Discuss and Approve the LWCD's continued participation in the Statewide Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program

Director Casper reviewed the MDV funds based on the associated HUC 8 watersheds and the municipal wastewater treatment facilities participating in the program. Casper recommended that the LWCD participate in the Upper Fox Watershed to maintain eligibility with the largest amount of funds available to be as efficient as possible with LWCD staff time. Following a brief discussion, a Bohn/Powers motion to approve participation in the MDV Program passed 5-0.

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

Chairman Farrey explained to the LCC that he believes the ARPA funds are eligible for water quality improvement projects. Farrey went on to say that it is an opportunity to start identifying conservation projects or potential ways the funds could be utilized in the LWCD to improve water quality in the county. Farrey and Casper will continue to gather information about the use of the funds and communicate that with the LCC. Farrey also wants this discussion item to be on future LCC agendas.

Approve Authorization for Chad Casper to Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (WCWQIP) cost-share agreements exceeding \$5,000 for the remainder of 2021

Director Casper explained that this was necessary in order to allow for the full execution of CSAs for the remainder of 2021. Casper stated that completed CSAs are required in order to secure the 2021 funding for the projects and make them eligible to be carried over into the 2022 LWCD budget. Following a brief discussion, a Bohn/Powers motion to approve the authorization passed 5-0.

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/Joas motion to approve \$10,500.00 for the Michael & Melissa Gibbs shoreline protection project, \$500.00 for the Marilyn McCormick well abandonment project and \$500.00 for the Mai Xiong Yang & Lee Lor well abandonment project passed 5-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

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

Judge the 2022 WLWCA Poster Contest posters

The LCC members judged the 2022 posters.

A Bohn/Joas motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m. passed 5-0.

Chad Casper, Recorder