



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday March 2, 2022, 7:15 P.M.
USDA Service Center, 440 N Hwy 14 and Virtual via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Aegerter (zoom), Rich Bostwick, Janelle Crary (zoom), Wes Davis (zoom), Mike Mulligan, James Quade, Genia Stevens (zoom) and Alan Sweeney.

Committee Members Excused: None

Others Present: Andrew Baker, Director

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2022 LCC meeting.** Supervisor Mulligan moved the approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Supervisor Davis reminded the Committee that he was asked by League of Women Voters members, on behalf of the Land Conservation Committee/Department, to take part in their virtual Water Quality event on Earth Day, April 20th. He is working on getting a local farmer to participate as well. Chair Bostwick reminded the group the Canoe/Kayak Club annual pancake breakfast fund raiser on April 9th in Fort Atkinson.
5. **Action Item. Land and Water Resource Management Program - Approval of Cost Share Agreements**

Andrew explained that the agreement is for Nutrient Management. Contracts are valid for four years and payment of \$40 per acre is paid when the initial plan is completed. These contract payments are 100% reimbursed by though DATCP Grant. \$75,000 a year is allocated for nutrient management in the County.

A. LR-007.22 Joe Gunn

Supervisor Sweeney made the motion to approve item 5A as presented. Mr. Quade seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Action Item: Request for Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Permit Extension**

- A. ECSW 2021-8: Blackhawk Technical College Public Safety and Training Center Phase 1B (two month request).

Andrew noted that this request for a short permit extension is essentially to have time to assure all vegetation planted in the fall germinates and the site achieves final stabilization. Some minor works is required related to ECSW items.

Supervisor Davis made the motion to approve item 6A as presented. Mr. Quade seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Information Items**

- A. WPDES Municipal Storm Water Permit Annual Report – Opportunity for Public Input

Andrew reviewed the annual report that was included in the agenda packet, which was compiled by Chris Murphy. Andrew noted that this report is a requirement as a means to document continue permit compliance. The permit addresses runoff from County owned storm sewer systems, which are primarily road ditches. It was discussed that this permit covers only the area of the County that is within the Urbanized Area based on census block information. A map of the area covered was reviewed.

- B. PACE Program Update

Andrew updated the Committee in regard to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) group that was selected for funding by NRCS starting this year. A Meeting was held is NRCS in February. It is clear that the application requirements will be the same as we normally due for ACEP-ALE (the federal funding source for PACE easements). The difference will be that we will not be competing state-wide for funds. Our budgeted funds will be able to be matched as long as a parcel is deemed eligible. This is a five year agreement, so there really is no reason to rush the process. AT this point, staff will likely continue a summer application period with analysis by the PACE Council and LCC in the fall. The County will be able to submit applications for this special funding source and traditional ACEP-ALE; there are two sources of funds.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) is the leader and organizer of the group. The LCC asked how AFT is being compensated for their staff time at the last meeting. Andrew asked AFT about this. At this point, their time is donated to benefit the group. AFT will not be party to the easements, but rather a facilitator. In the future they intend to hire an additional staff person and develop an agreement with NRCS directly to be a paid, third-party partner/vendor, to help promote and development other RCPP applications in the Country. This is something that NRCS does not have staff to do directly.

- C. Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup Update

Andrew informed the Committee that he will be presenting at the Discovery Farms Steering Committee on March tenth. The purpose is to introduce there potential farms to be involved with a partnership with Discover Farms for nitrate leaching research through the use of pan lysimeters. This is something that the GWN Workgroup was been interested in implementing for years and now Discovery Farms as budgeted funds to implement the project for at least three years. The only cost to the County will be staff time to collect water samples every two weeks. The preference of the workgroup is to

install the research tools on the County Farm to be in concert with the on going well testing and conservation practice implementation. However, Discovery Farms standard practice is to do work on privately owned land. The County Farm is unique in that while it is owned by the County, it is operated via lease with a private citizen. The County has no input in the farm decisions, nor risk. The only input is the requirement for conservation practices and nutrient management, which would be the same for most farms.'

It was noted that the Farmers on the Rock Producer led watershed group annual meeting is also March 10th around noon. Andrew also informed the Committee that he presented at the Beloit Sustainability Fair on Monday, covering many of the programs and initiatives we presently have in the Department.

10. **Review Bills Paid.** None.
11. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.

G: office/lcc/lcc2022/M030222