



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday April 6, 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, James Quade, Genia Stevens (zoom) and Alan Sweeney.

Committee Members Excused: Mike Mulligan

Others Present: Andrew Baker, Director

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Andrew suggested revising the agenda to move Item 6 up prior to Item 5 since the applicants are waiting on the Zoom call. Supervisor Stevens moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Crary. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2022 LCC meeting.** Mr. Quade moved the approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Crary. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Andrew discussed having a conservation tour again this year, especially considering the number of new members we will have. Andrew thanked Anne Miller for representing the LCD at the Janesville Sustainability Fair. Tom Sweeney will be recognized at the April 14th County Board Meeting. Chair Bostwick reminded the group the Canoe/Kayak Club annual pancake breakfast fund raiser on April 9th in Fort Atkinson. The Committee thanked Supervisors Davis and Aegerter for their service to the Committee and the County Board.
6. **Action Item: Request for Erosion Control Permit Double Fee Redcuton**

- A. Carmen Redalen – After-the-Fact Permit for Residential Driveway – Milton Township

Andrew noted that this request for fee reduction is for a residential driveway in Milton Township. The normal fee would have been \$230 based on the area of the driveway, so the double fee is \$460. The applicants explained that they obtained a driveway access permit in the fall and installed the driveway at that time in advance of getting the zoning site and building permits for the new house. When they got the permit applications and saw the noted about likely needing an Erosion Control Permit, they contacted LCD staff immediately and obtained an after-the-fact permit. Andrew asked what contractor did

the work, since there are very few that aren't aware of the erosion control permit process. The applicants said they did the work themselves. Supervisor Sweeney ask if there are any concerns about erosion since the proper permit/plan wasn't approved in advance. Andrew stated no, the site is fairly level with ag land on each side. Andrew stated staff is hesitant to recommend approval simply because the applicants started a fairly major project without having all necessary permits in place in advance. Had they obtained all necessary permits before starting, this could have been avoided. However, considering their timely response once they realized they needed a permit, the fact the disturbance was fairly limited and not in a critical area and they did the work themselves, staff is comfortable recommending approval.

Supervisor Davis made the motion to approve the request for standard fees for the permit, not doubled for an after-the-fact permit. Supervisor Sweeney seconded. **Motion carried with Supervisor Steven voting no.**

5. **Action Item. Land and Water Resource Management Program - Approval of Cost Share Agreements**

Andrew explained each of the agreements, which were approved as follows:

A. LR-009.22 Waller Well Abandonment

Supervisor Sweeney made the motion to approve item as presented. Supervisor Davis seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. LR-010.22 Sweeney Well Abandonment

Supervisor Aegerter made the motion to approve item as presented. Supervisor Davis seconded. **Motion carried unanimously with Supervisor Sweeney abstaining.**

C. LR-008.22 Prairie Creek Farms Waterway

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

D. LR-011.22 Ron Weberpal Manure Storage Abandonment

Supervisor Aegerter made the motion to approve item as presented. Supervisor Davis seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. LR-012.22 Eva Arnold Waterway

Supervisor Sweeney made the motion to approve item as presented. Supervisor Aegerter seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

F. LR-013.22 Gary Ackerman Critical Area Stabilization

Supervisor Sweeney made the motion to approve item as presented. Supervisor Cray seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

G. LR-014.22 Phil Wellnitz Stream Crossing and Fencing

Supervisor Davis made the motion to approve item as presented. Supervisor Sweeney seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Information Items**

A. PACE Program Update

Andrew reported that 2021 applications for Sayre and McNall have been officially approved by the NRCS for funding. Working on closing 2019 Barlass application and 2020 applications for Watson, Conway and Vanthournout. Will plan to have the normal review cycle for 2022, processing applications in yearly fall whether we apply to NRCS directly or through the RCPP option.

B. Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup Update

Andrew informed the Committee that he presented at the Discovery Farms Steering Committee on March 10th. The purpose was to introduce three potential farms to be involved with a partnership with Discover Farms for nitrate leaching research through the use of pan lysimeters. Following the presentation, the Steering Committee gave staff the go ahead to continue pursuing the project in the County, but on privately owned lands (not the County farm). There were various reasons for this (as noted in the email shared from Eric Cooley, Discover Farm), but the primary reason was to stick to their standard model of working on private lands. The work group is looking at options to fund research at the County Farm separately to complement the well water collection research.

C. 2021 Annual Report to DATCP

Andrew reviewed the annual report and answered questions.

D. 2023 SWRM Grant Application to DATCP (Staff and Cost Share)

Andrew explained that this application is for both the staff grant and cost share funds. Typically the County is approved for around \$160,000 for staff, \$62,000 for Bond funds (practices) and \$75,000 for Nutrient Management. Funding for staff is based on the County's staff cost, i.e. counties with higher staffing rates get more funding, but it is not a direct percentage on an annual basis. Based on State Budget.

8. **Review Bills Paid.** Andrew explained the bills. There were no questions.

9. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

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

G: office/lcc/lcc2022/M040622