



MINUTES
ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday June 7, 2023 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 7:17 pm.

Committee Members Present: Rich Bostwick, Ron Bomkamp, James Quade, Janelle Crary (Zoom), Alan Sweeney and Debi Towns.

Committee Members Excused: Kim Schneider and Genia Stevens

Others Present: Teresa Zimmer, FSA CED, Andrew Baker, Director
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Crary. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2023.** Supervisor Crary moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Andrew noted that the new Conservation Specialist, Colleen Johnson, will be starting on June 12th. She will be replacing retired Duane Collins and will be the staff person focused on agronomy, soil health, nutrient management, etc. Colleen currently works at FSA in the building and grew up/lives in Magnolia Township.
5. **Information Item: Farm Service Agency Update**
FSA-CED Teresa Zimmer gave an update of the programs her staff is working, including 2023 crop reporting, which is a very large undertaking. They have also conducted interviews for new staff and will be hiring one or possible two new employees.
6. **Action Items**
 - A. **Recognizing Norman J. Tadt Jr. for Service to Rock County** Andrew summarized the resolution on Norm's behalf. Already considered by County Board Staff (approved) and will go to County Board on Thursday if approved by LCC.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Quade.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - B. **Consideration of Appointments to PACE Council**
Andrew referenced the appointment list to the PACE council that was included in the packet. Seven appointments were approved in January. Two vacancies remain. Tim Tollefson has agreed to be the second Town Representative. Tim

is the Clerk for the Town of Harmony and also the Clerk for the Rock County Towns Association. Andrew also spoke to Dannie Evans, as suggested by Supervisor Williams. Mr. Evans would be appointed to fill the realtor/land developer position. Mr. Evans, however, chose not to join the council based on his schedule.

The Committee discussed continuing to seek qualified candidates based on recommendations and/or suggestions. Supervisor Towns suggested Larry Niquet from the Clinton area.

At this time Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to appoint Tim Tollefson to the PACE Council. Seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Information Items**

A. PACE Program Update

The Federal application for fiscal year 2023 program funding is August 1, 2023. Therefore, staff will organize applications for consideration at the July 2023 LCC meeting. This means that the PACE Council meeting will be held prior to that. Supervisor Sweeney asked the LCC members be invited to attend the PACE Council meeting for informational purposes.

B. Planning for Summer Conservation Tour

In 2022 staff hosted a fall conservation tour, however historically the tour has been held in the spring or summer. The Committee noted in the past they would like to return to a summer tour. After discussion, August 10th was the date selected. Andrew reminded the Committee that this tour gives staff to show physical conservation practices that have been worked on over the years and explain the various programs that are administered by the Department.

C. UW Weed Science Field Day at County Farm June 15

Notification was emailed to the LCC regarding the UW Weed Science field day that will be hosted at the County Farm on June 15 started at 9:00 am and ended with lunch. Committee members are welcome and encouraged to attend. No RSVP is necessary.

8. **Review Bills Paid – May Payments.** Andrew reviewed the payments. Supervisor Towns asked about the Brabazon payments. Andrew explained that those are for the title policies for the PACE program. The County pays all administrative and closing costs associated with easement acquisition. Doing so was included in the overall program approval.
9. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm, seconded by Supervisor Bomkamp. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

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

G: office/lcc/lcc2023/M060723