



MINUTES
ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday May 3, 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 7:19 pm.

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

Committee Members Excused: None

Others Present: Teresa Zimmer, FSA CED, Andrew Baker, Director

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Towns moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2023.** Mr. Quade moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Crary. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Andrew noted that the Clean Sweep sign up period has started and closes May 26th. LCD advertise for all events at the same. Events will be held in Janesville (August 26), Beloit (June 24) and Milton (June 25) this year. Andrew will send more details to the LCC to share.

Annual stream monitor training will be held May 13, led by Rock River Coalition and assisted by LCD staff. LCD has worked with this program since 2002.

Farmers on the Rock Producer Led Watershed group had a event in April that in which Governor Evers and the DATCP Secretary visited to offer support and thanks for the watershed group efforts as a whole in Wisconsin. The event was well attended, including local legislators.

Andrew brought to the attention of the LCC the proposed plan of Madison Metro. Sewer District to shift a portion of the outflow that has gone “back” to Verona (Badger Mill Creek Watershed) for the last twenty plus years to the Badfish (Rock County) with the rest of the outflow. The purpose is to meet WPDES Permit requirements. The plan is current in the public comment period. The Health Department will be providing feedback as to many negative aspects that this change could cause in Rock County. Supervisor Schneider was at the Board of Health meeting prior to LCC where this was discussed. She summarized Health’s plan. This is not on the agenda for LCC action nor will staff be taking any position without LCC approval.

5. **Information Item: Farm Service Agency Update**

FSA-CED Teresa Zimmer gave an update of the programs her staff is working, including continuous CRP sign-up and the dairy program payments. There are, or will be, two positions that will be hired in the office (one permanent and one temporary)

6. **Action Item. Approval Staff Signature Authority for DATCP Related Documents**

A. Approval for Anne Miller and Ashley Roscoe

Andrew summarized the memo included in the packet. This authority was granted in the past to Norm Tadt who will be retiring. Authorization will allow Anne or Ashley to sign DATCP related documents in lieu of the Chair. Normal authorization goes to the Director, but DATCP requires that signature authority only be granted to employees that are 100% conservation focused. Being that the Director position is shared 50/50 with Planning, this doesn't work in Rock County. Authorizing two staff people will ensure that the same staff person that completes the paperwork doesn't also authorize it (i.e. a legitimate chance for a second set of eyes). The LCC will still vote on actions that require it as has been done in the past (such as cost share agreements).

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve that Anne Miller OR (not AND) Ashley Roscoe be granted signature authority for all DATCP related documents. Seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Andrew explained all projects and answered limited questions.

A. LR-016.23 Loren Bobolz – Roof Runoff System

Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve. Seconded by Mr. Quade **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. LR-017.23 Every Survivors Trust - Waterway System

Supervisor Schneider moved to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Crary. **Motion carried unanimously.**

C. LR-018.23 Charles D Stanhope Trust - Critical Area Stabilization

Mr. Quade moved to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**

D. LR-019.23 Little Limestone Inc - Waterway System

Supervisor Crary moved to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Schneider. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. LR-020.23 Michael C Mullikin - Waterway System

Supervisor Schneider moved to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Towns. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Action Item. Approval of Farmland Preservation Cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance Documents**

A. Mark and Christine Metcalf Revocable Trust (Ownership entity has changed; farm now in compliance)

Andrew explained the landownership entity of this property has changed and the current owners would like to get back into FPP. All compliance standards are met. Committee action is required to cancel past Notice of Noncompliance.

Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Towns. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Information Items**

A. PACE Program Update

Andrew noted that staff closed on the Vanthournout (April 10th) and Barlass (April 20th) in the last few weeks. New applications will be processed in the coming months.

B. County Farm Update

Supervisor Sweeney and Andrew met with UW research staff last month along with Scott Fleming (farm lease holder). Main plans for research plots will remain the same. Plots have been fertilized and prepped or planting. The solar project east of Rock Haven will start this fall due to delays in getting materials. The first lease payments have been made to the County.

10. **Review Bills Paid – April Payments.** Andrew reviewed the payments. There were no questions.

11. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm, seconded by Supervisor Towns. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

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

G: office/lcc/lcc2023/M050323